



# OBAMA CALLS FOR NSA OVERHAUL

## Changes To Phone Data Collection Program Imminent

President Barack Obama talks about National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance, Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, at the Justice Department in Washington. Seeking to calm a furor over U.S. surveillance, the president called for ending the government's control of phone data from -hundreds of millions of Americans and immediately ordered intelligence agencies to get a secretive court's permission before accessing the records.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

**MARK LANDLER**  
**PETER BAKER**  
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**WASHINGTON** - President Barack Obama, declaring that advances in technology had made it harder "to both defend our nation and uphold our civil liberties," announced carefully calculated changes to sur-

veillance policies Friday, saying he would restrict the ability of intelligence agencies to gain access to telephone data, and would ultimately move that data out of the hands of the government. But Obama left in place significant elements of the broad surveillance net as-

sembled by the National Security Agency, and left the implementation of many of his changes up to Congress and the intelligence agencies themselves. In a much-anticipated speech that ranged from lofty principles to highly technical details, Obama said he would require prior court

approval for the viewing of telephone data. He also said he would forbid eavesdropping on the leaders of allied countries, after the disclosure of such activities ignited a diplomatic firestorm with Germany and other friendly nations. "America's capabilities are unique," Obama said.

"And the power of new technologies means that there are fewer and fewer technical constraints on what we can do. That places a special obligation on us to ask tough questions about what we should do."

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# Pennsylvania voter ID law is struck down

**RICK LYMAN**

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In a strongly worded decision, a state judge Friday struck down Pennsylvania's 2012 law requiring voters to produce a state-approved photo ID at the polls, setting up a potential Supreme Court confrontation that could have implications for other such laws across the country.

Commonwealth Court Judge Bernard L. McGinley ruled that the law hampered the ability of hundreds of thousands of qualified Pennsylvanians to cast their ballots, falling most heavily on elderly, disabled and low-income res-

idents, and that the state's reasons for enacting the law - that it was needed to combat voter fraud - was unsupported by the facts. "Voting laws are designed to assure a free and fair election," the judge wrote in his 103-page decision. "The Voter ID law does not further this goal." In addition, McGinley ruled, the state's \$5 million education campaign to explain the law had been full of misinformation that has never been corrected. He also said the free IDs that were supposed to be made available to those without a driver's license or other approved photo

identification were difficult and sometimes impossible to obtain.

James Schultz, the governor's general counsel, issued a statement saying the state was studying the ruling. "We continue to evaluate the opinion and will shortly determine whether post-trial motions are appropriate," he said. Supporters of the law - which is intended to combat only one type of potential voter fraud, that of unqualified people trying to vote in person - have said it is needed to make sure the person who casts the ballot is the person who is registered to vote.

Opponents contend that such fraud is rare - in Pennsylvania's case, the state could not point to a single such incident - and that the laws are actually intended to suppress Democratic turnout, since those who do not possess a state-approved photo ID are more likely to be in groups that tend to vote Democratic.

"The type of problem that is addressed by voter ID laws is virtually nonexistent, which does raise the question of why they are passing these laws," Witold Walczak, legal director of the ACLU of Pennsylvania, said after Friday's ruling. □



Adam Bruckner, left, a volunteer with the Christian based group Philly Restart, provides checks to people, each made out to the state of Pennsylvania for \$13.50, which they can use to obtain a state identification card, in Philadelphia. A state judge on Friday struck down a nearly two-year-old law that requires nearly all of the state's voters to show photo I.D. before voting, setting the stage for a potential Supreme Court confrontation. (Jessica Kourkounis/The New York Times)

## APNewsBreak: Pope defrocked 400 in 2 years

**JOHN HEILPRIN  
NICOLE WINFIELD  
Associated Press**

**VATICAN CITY (AP)** — A document obtained by The Associated Press on Friday shows Pope Benedict XVI defrocked nearly 400 priests over just two years for sexually molesting children. The statistics for 2011 and 2012 show a dramatic increase over the 171 priests removed in 2008 and 2009, when the Vatican first provided details on the number of priests who have been defrocked. Prior to that, it had only publicly revealed the number of alleged cases of sexual abuse it had received and the number of trials it had authorized.

While it's not clear why the numbers spiked in 2011, it could be because 2010 saw a new explosion in the number of cases reported in the media in Europe and beyond. The document was prepared from data the Vatican had been collecting and was compiled to help the Holy See defend itself before a U.N. committee this week in Geneva.

Archbishop Silvano Tomasi, the Vatican's U.N. ambassador in Geneva, referred to just one of the statistics in the course of eight hours of oftentimes pointed criticism and questioning from the U.N. human rights committee. The statistics were compiled from the Vatican's own annual reports about the activities of its various offices, including the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which handles sex abuse cases. Although public, the annual reports are not readily available or sold outside Rome and are usually found in Vatican offices or Catholic university libraries. An AP review of the reference books shows a remarkable evolution in the Holy See's in-house procedures to discipline pedophiles since 2001, when the Vatican ordered bishops to send cases of all credibly accused priests to Rome for review. □

## Kerry: No rush to decide on Keystone XL pipeline

**MATTHEW DALY  
Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Secretary of State John Kerry said Friday that the United States will not be pushed into making a decision on the long-delayed Keystone XL pipeline, brushing aside pressure from Canada. At a joint appearance with Canada's foreign affairs minister, John Baird, Kerry said he has not received a crucial environmental report on the \$7 billion pipeline, which would carry oil from western Canada to refineries in Texas.

"My hope is that before

long, that analysis will be available, and then my work begins," Kerry said, referring to a recommendation he is expected to make on whether the pipeline is in the U.S. national interest. The State Department has jurisdiction over the pipeline because it crosses an international border.

Kerry, who has rarely spoken about the pipeline since taking office a year ago, said "a lot of questions" were raised about the project in a lengthy public comment period the State Department conducted. "Those comments

have necessitated appropriate answers," he said.

"I can promise our friends in Canada that all the appropriate effort is being put into trying to get this done effectively and rapidly," Kerry added. Kerry's comments came as Baird, his counterpart in Canada, concluded a three-day visit to Washington in which he repeatedly urged U.S. officials to decide quickly on the pipeline, which was first proposed by Calgary-based TransCanada in 2008. "If there's one message I'm going to be promoting on this trip, it's this:

the time for Keystone is now. I'll go further — the time for a decision on Keystone is now, even if it's not the right one," Baird told a U.S. Chamber of Commerce luncheon this week. "We can't continue in this state of limbo." The pipeline plan has become a flashpoint in the U.S. debate over climate change. Environmental groups have pressured President Barack Obama to reject the pipeline, saying it would carry "dirty oil" derived from tar sands and exacerbate global warming. They also worry about a spill. □



## AROUND THE UNITED STATES

### Happy birthday for Michelle Obama

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michelle Obama is celebrating her 50th birthday Friday. The first lady is spending the day out of sight, with no public appearances after back-to-back events this week. A big birthday bash is on tap for Saturday night at the White House. President Obama has been involved in the planning. The president turned 50 in 2011. Officials are keeping a tight lid on party details, but guests have been told to come prepared to dance. Mrs. Obama said last month she wasn't certain how she would spend her birthday but that whatever she did might involve some dancing.

### Jos. A. Bank rejects \$1.61B takeover

Jos. A. Bank Clothier Inc. has rejected a \$1.61 billion takeover offer from rival Men's Wearhouse. The two men's clothing retailers have been engaged in a strange courtship for months. Jos. A. Bank made a bid for The Men's Wearhouse Inc. last year that was rejected. Men's Wearhouse then turned the tables and made a bid for Jos. A. Bank that was denied in December. It then raised the offer to \$57.50 per share from \$55 per share. But Jos. A. Bank said Friday that the offer is still too low and not in the best interest of shareholders.

### Employers post most jobs since 2008

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. employers advertised more jobs in November and more Americans quit, positive signs for millions who are unemployed and looking for work. The Labor Department said Friday that job openings rose 1.8% to a seasonally adjusted 4 million, the most in 5 ½ years. And the number of people quitting increased 1.9% to a seasonally adjusted 2.4 million, a five-year high. Job openings haven't topped 4 million since March 2008, just a few months after the Great Recession began. Openings at that level are generally consistent with a healthy job market.

### Two students shot in PA school gym

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Police say they've captured a boy who shot two students at a Philadelphia high school gym. They say the shooting happened at the Delaware Valley Charter School in north Philadelphia on Friday afternoon. It's the second U.S. school shooting this week. Authorities say a 12-year-old boy opened fire Tuesday in a New Mexico school gym, wounding two classmates. Police Commissioner Charles Ramsey says the Philadelphia shooter "was captured not too far from his home" but the gun hasn't been recovered.

### Octomom pleads not guilty to fraud

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The woman known as "Octomom" for giving birth to the world's longest-surviving octuplets pleaded not guilty Friday to three charges of welfare fraud. Nadya Suleman is accused of failing to report \$30,000 that authorities say she was earning when she applied for public assistance benefits. The 38-year-old single mother of 14 children was released on her own recognizance after arraignment in Los Angeles County Superior Court. If convicted, she could face five years and eight months in prison. □

## Crews make progress on California fire

RAQUEL DILLON

Associated Press

GLENDORA, Calif. (AP) — Firefighters were chasing flare-ups Friday morning in a damaging wildfire that was largely tamed but kept thousands of people from their homes in the foothill suburbs northeast of Los Angeles. Scattered open flames chewed through brush along hillsides above communities abutting the San Gabriel Mountains as crews doused properties in the path of the fire. Firefighters lit controlled backfires to reduce fuel.

All flare-ups happened within the containment lines of the wildfire that

swept through about 2 1/2 square miles of tinder-dry chaparral and destroyed five homes on Thursday, said Incident Commander Mike Wakowski at a morning news conference. The fire was 30 percent contained.

Crews were turning their attention to the fire's north end, to keep flames from moving further into Angeles National Forest.

"Things are progressing nicely," Wakowski said. "It's looking pretty good around the structures."

A huge plume that spread across Los Angeles in the early stages of the fire dissipated but an acrid haze

remained.

The National Weather Service said some red-flag warnings of extreme fire danger due to low humidity and gusty Santa Ana winds would expire Friday evening. The warnings were being extended to 6 p.m. Saturday in local mountains.

"The conditions are still extreme out there," forest supervisor Tom Contreras said.

Those conditions come against a bigger backdrop of a serious statewide water shortage that led Gov. Jerry Brown to formally declare the state to be in a drought Friday. □



A fire crew works on a fire line as a wildfire burns just north of the San Gabriel Valley community of Glendora, Calif., on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014. Firefighters were chasing flare-ups Friday morning in the damaging wildfire that was largely tamed but kept thousands of people from their homes in the foothill suburbs northeast of Los Angeles.

(AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu)

## Supreme Court to weigh cellphone searches

WASHINGTON - The Supreme Court on Friday agreed to hear two cases about whether the police need a warrant to search the cellphones of people they arrest, presenting a major test of the meaning of the Fourth Amendment in the digital age.

The court has long allowed warrantless searches in connection with arrests, saying they are justified by the need to find weapons and prevent destruction of evidence. The question for the justices is whether the potentially vast amounts of data held on smartphones

warrant a different approach under the Fourth Amendment, which bars unreasonable searches.

The lower courts are divided. The federal appeals court in Boston threw out evidence gathered after the police there inspected the call log of a drug dealer's rudimentary flip phone. "Today, many Americans store their most personal 'papers' and 'effects' in electronic format, on a cellphone, carried on the person," Judge Norman H. Stahl wrote for a divided three-judge panel of the court. "That information is,

by and large, of a highly personal nature: photographs, videos, written and audio messages (text, email, and voice mail), contacts, calendar appointments, Web search and browsing history, purchases, and financial and medical records."

In urging the Supreme Court to hear the case, *United States v. Wurie*, No. 13-212, Solicitor General Donald B. Verrilli Jr. said courts have long endorsed inspection of anything carried by the people they arrest, including wallets, pocket diaries and address books. □





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From left, National Security Agency Director General Keith Alexander, Deputy Attorney General James Cole, Attorney General Eric Holder, and Senate Judiciary Committee Chairman Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., sit together before President Barack Obama spoke about National Security Agency (NSA) surveillance, Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, at the Justice Department in Washington. The president called for ending the government's control of phone data from millions of Americans.

(AP Photo/Carolyn Kaster)

## OBAMA CALLS FOR NSA OVERHAUL

Continued from Front

But Obama also delivered a stout defense of the nation's intelligence establishment, saying that there was no evidence it had abused its power, and that many of its methods were necessary to protect Americans from a host of threats in the years after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The president did not accept one of the most significant recommendations of his own advisory panel on surveillance practices: requiring prior court approval for so-called national security letters, which the government uses to demand information on individuals from companies. And in leaving much of the implementation up to Congress, he most likely opened the door to extremely contentious battles.

Obama made only passing reference to Edward J. Snowden, the former NSA contractor whose disclosures of classified information set off a national and international clamor over U.S. surveillance practices. Snowden's actions, he said, jeopardized the nation's defense and framed a debate that has "often shed more heat than light." Still, noting his own record of opposition to intrusive surveillance and the "cautionary tale" of unchecked state spying in countries like the former East Germany, Obama acknowledged that the disclosures raised

profound issues of the balance between liberty and security.

"When you cut through the noise," the president said, "what's really at stake is how we remain true to who we are in a world that is remaking itself at dizzying speed."

Though Obama has been weighing these changes for months, he made a final decision on judicial review for the collection of phone records only Thursday night, a senior official said, attesting to the extreme sensitivity of these issues and the competing interests at play.

At the heart of the changes will be an overhaul of a bulk data program that has swept up many millions of records of Americans' telephone calls, though not their content. Although Obama said such collection was important to foil terrorist plots, he acknowledged it could be abused and had not been subject to an adequate public debate.

"Critics are right to point out that without proper safeguards, this type of program could be used to yield more information about our private lives, and open the door to more intrusive, bulk collection programs," he said.

In two immediate actions, Obama said intelligence agencies would only pursue phone calls that are two steps removed from a number associated with a terrorist organization, rather than three. □



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## Queens, New York:

## Police probe remains for link to missing autistic boy



New York Police Department officers investigate the site where a body, believed to be that of Avonte Oquendo, was discovered in New York, Jan. 17, 2014. Avonte, 14, has been missing for more than three months and was last seen wearing sneakers that match the size and description of a pair found with the remains washed ashore in the College Point neighborhood along Long Island Sound.

MARC SANTORA  
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**NEW YORK** - Police on Friday were working to identify human remains that washed ashore in Queens the night before and were trying to determine if they are those of a young boy with autism who disap-

peared more than three months ago. The boy, Avonte Oquendo, 14, was last seen in early October when he was captured on surveillance video darting out of his school building in Long Island City in the middle of the day. Along with the remains, the po-

lice found a pair of size 5 1/2 Air Jordan sneakers that match the description of those Avonte was wearing when he went missing, said David H. Perecman, a lawyer for the family. The police also found size 16 jeans, the same size worn by Avonte, he said. The limbs that have been re-

covered - which were so badly decomposed that skin color could not be determined - were consistent with those of a child around Avonte's age.

His biological mother, Vanessa Fontaine, received a telephone call from the police at 2 a.m. Friday and went to the medical examiner's office to give a DNA sample to help investigators determine if the child is hers, Perecman said.

Avonte has a severe form of autism, unable to communicate verbally and unable to care for himself, and his disappearance resonated across the city, prompting one of the largest searches in recent memory.

The police sifted through more than 200 videos, fielded hundreds of tips and employed every device in their arsenal, from bloodhounds to helicopters, in the search. Avonte was reported to have liked trains, so posters went up throughout the transit system and announcements were made in subways

over the public address system describing the boy - he is 5 feet 3 inches tall and weighs 125 pounds - and what he was last seen wearing, a gray striped shirt, black jeans and black sneakers. His family, not wanting to give up hope even after weeks went by, set up a command station of sorts outside the school Avonte attended, where they directed search efforts. "They have held out hope and the mother has been as relentless as possible, searching for her son," Perecman said. Even now, he said later at a news conference, she was holding out hope that the remains are not those of her child. "She told me she wakes up in the morning, she cries her eyes out, and then she wipes her eyes and goes out and does what she has to do," Perecman said. Some family members gathered Friday morning at an Astoria office that they have been using in recent weeks to direct the search effort. □

## Company blamed in West Virginia chemical spill seeking bankruptcy

JONATHAN MATTISE  
Associated Press  
**CHARLESTON, West Virginia (AP)** — The company blamed for a chemical spill that left 300,000 West Virginians without safe drinking water filed for bankruptcy Friday.

Freedom Industries Inc., facing multiple lawsuits and state and federal investigations after the Jan. 9 spill, filed a bankruptcy petition with the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Southern District of West Virginia. Company president Gary Southern signed the paperwork, which lists the company's assets and liabilities as a range between \$1 million and \$10 million. It says the company has at least 200 creditors and owes its top 20 creditors \$3.66 million.

The water was tainted after a chemical used to clean coal leaked from a storage tank and then a con-

tainment area at a facility owned by Freedom Industries. The water ran into the Elk River, contaminating the state's largest water system.

The bankruptcy document says the leaky storage tank appears to have been pierced through its base by some sort of object. It also says a current theory for the hole is that a local water line that broke near the Charleston plant could have made the ground beneath the storage tank freeze in the cold days before the spill.

After the spill, residents in a nine-county area around the state capital of Charleston were told not to use the water for anything other than flushing toilets. Some businesses and schools were forced to close for several days.

The water restrictions have since been lifted for most residents. □



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## Surgeon general urges new resolve to end smoking

**LAURAN NEERGAARD**  
**AP Medical Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — One in 13 children could see their lives shortened by smoking unless the nation takes more aggressive action to end the tobacco

of the landmark 1964 surgeon general's report that launched the anti-smoking movement, far fewer Americans are smoking — about 18 percent of adults today, down from more than 42 percent in 1964.

teens will go on to die prematurely during adulthood because of smoking, the report finds. What's particularly remarkable is that 50 years into the war on smoking, "we're still finding out new ways that tobacco

diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, erectile dysfunction, the macular degeneration that can blind older adults, and the birth defects cleft palate and cleft lip. Also new to the list are two additional cancers — liver and colorectal.

Smoking is costing the nation nearly \$300 billion in medical bills, lost productivity and other costs, officials said. Yet Frieden said states are spending less than \$1.50 a person on tobacco control each year when they should be spending about \$12 a person.

The report urges increased use of proven tobacco-control measures, including price hikes for cigarettes and expanding comprehensive indoor-smoking bans that currently cover about half the population. The report also encourages research into newer ideas, such as whether lowering the amount of addictive nicotine in cigarettes would help people quit.

Here are some ways the smoking landscape has changed between the 1964 surgeon general's report and Friday's:

**1964:** The surgeon general declares that cigarette smoking increases deaths.

**2014:** About 20.8 million people in the U.S. have died from smoking-related diseases since then, a toll the report puts at 10 times the number of Americans who have died in all of the nation's wars combined. Most were smokers or former smokers, but nearly 2.5 million died from heart disease or lung cancer caused by secondhand

smoke.

**1964:** Heavy smoking is declared the main cause of lung cancer, at least in men. "The data for women, though less extensive, point in the same direction."

**2014:** Today, lung cancer is the top cancer killer, and women who smoke have about the same risk of dying from it as men. As smoking has declined, rates of new lung cancer diagnoses are declining nearly 3 percent a year among men and about 1 percent a year among women.

**1964:** Male smokers were dying of heart disease more than nonsmokers, but the surgeon general stopped short of declaring cigarettes a cause of heart disease.

**2014:** Today, heart disease actually claims more lives of smokers 35 and older than lung cancer does. Likewise, secondhand smoke is riskier for your heart. Smoke-free laws have been linked to reductions in heart attacks. Friday's surgeon general report also finds that secondhand smoke increases the risk of a stroke.

**1964:** Smoking in pregnancy results in low-birth-weight babies.

**2014:** Friday's report says 100,000 of the smoking-caused deaths over the past 20 years were of babies who died of sudden infant death syndrome, or SIDS, or complications from prematurity, low birth weight or other conditions related to parents' smoking. And it adds cleft palate birth defects to that list of smoking risks to babies.



This photo shows packs of cigarettes in a store in Brunswick, Maine. It's no secret that smoking causes lung cancer. But what about diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, erectile dysfunction? Fifty years into the war on smoking, scientists still are adding diseases to the long list of cigarettes' harms - even as the government struggles to get more people to kick the habit. A new report from the U.S. Surgeon General's office says the nation is at a crossroads, celebrating decades of progress against the chief preventable killer but not yet poised to finish the job.

(AP Photo/Pat Wellenbach)

epidemic, the U.S. Surgeon General said Friday — even as, astonishingly, scientists added still more diseases to the long list of cigarettes' harms.

"Enough is enough," acting Surgeon General Boris Lushniak declared at a White House ceremony unveiling the 980-page report that urges new resolve to make the next generation a smoke-free generation. "The clock is ticking," Lushniak said. "We can't wait another 50 years."

On the 50th anniversary

of the landmark 1964 surgeon general's report that launched the anti-smoking movement, far fewer Americans are smoking — about 18 percent of adults today, down from more than 42 percent in 1964.

Nearly half a million people will die from smoking-related diseases this year. Each day, more than 3,200 youths smoke their first cigarette. New products such as e-cigarettes, with effects that aren't yet understood, complicate public health messages.

And if current trends continue unabated, 5.6 million of today's children and

teens will go on to die prematurely during adulthood because of smoking, the report finds. "Tobacco is even worse than we knew it was."

Lung cancer and heart disease have long been known to be the top causes of death for smokers. Friday's report adds more entries to the official list of smoking-caused diseases, many of them costly chronic illnesses that people struggle with for years. Included are Type 2



## US Financial Front:

## American homebuilding dips, but best year since '07

MARTIN CRUTSINGER

AP Economics Writer

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. home construction slowed in December but ended 2013 with the best showing since the housing bubble burst. The Commerce Department said Friday that builders broke ground last month at a seasonally annual rate of 999,000. That's 9.8 percent lower than November's pace of 1.12 million, which was the fastest in five years.

For the year, builders started 923,000 homes and apartments, up 18.3 percent from 2012. It was the fourth straight annual gain and the strongest since 2007, when 1.36 million homes were started.

The housing market has been recovering steadily over the past year, helping to boost economic growth and create jobs. But a rise in mortgage rates from record lows reached a year ago have started to weigh on those gains.

Still, economists said they December's dip in activity followed a huge gain November. They also blamed

some of the decline last month on cold weather, which may have disrupted some construction activity. "Despite really bad weather, builders still managed to keep digging and that is a great indication that the housing market continues to move forward," said Joel Naroff, chief economist at Naroff Economic Advisors.

For December, construction of single-family homes, which makes up roughly two-thirds of homebuilding, fell 7 percent to an annual rate of 667,000. Construction of apartments, which can be more volatile, dropped 14.9 percent to a 332,000 rate.

Applications for building permits, considered a good sign of future activity, fell 3 percent in December to a rate of 986,000. Single-family permits fell 4.8 percent. Permits for apartments were unchanged. Construction activity in December fell 33.5 percent in the Midwest and 12.3 percent in the South. Construction rose 15 percent in the West and was un-



**A builder works on the roof of a new home under construction in Wilmette, Ill. U.S. home construction slowed in December but ended 2013 with the best showing since the housing bubble burst.**  
(AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh)

changed in the Northeast. Mortgage rates are roughly a percentage point higher than in the spring. Still, they remain low by historical standards. The average rate on a 30-year mortgage fell to 4.41 percent this week. That's down from a peak of 4.6 percent in August.

U.S. homebuilders remain generally upbeat ahead

of the spring home-buying season. The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo builder sentiment index slipped to 56 in January, down slightly from a 57 reading in December. Readings above 50 indicate more builders view sales conditions as good rather than poor. Even with the small dip, the overall index remains in positive

territory and is nine points higher than it was a year ago. Though new homes represent only a fraction of the housing market, they have an outsized impact on the economy. Each home built creates an average of three jobs for a year and generates about \$90,000 in tax revenue, according to data from the homebuilders association. □

## American Innovation:

## Venture investments, deals up in 4Q

BARBARA ORTUTAY

AP Technology Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Funding for U.S. startups increased 20 percent in the final three months of 2013 as venture capitalists poured more money into more deals, according to a report released Friday. Startup investments totaled \$8.37 billion in the October-December period, up from \$6.95 billion in the fourth quarter of 2012. There were 1,077 deals completed in the quarter, up from 1,050 a year earlier. Software companies received the most money, with biotech a distant second. Popular online pinboard Pinterest Inc. snagged the most money in the quarter — \$225 million from venture-capitalist firms Andreessen Horowitz, Bessemer Venture Partners and others.

The MoneyTree study was conducted by PricewaterhouseCoopers and the Na-

tional Venture Capital Association, based on data from Thomson Reuters.

For the full year, total VC funding grew 7 percent to \$29.4 billion from \$27.3 billion in 2012 — but it was lower than the \$29.7 billion in 2011. Although it didn't grab as many headlines as consumer-facing startups such as Pinterest, a Texas networking technology company called Genband received the top deal in 2013, with \$343 million. Cab-hailing app Uber Technologies came in second with \$258 million. Pinterest, which like Uber is based in San Francisco, took both the No. 3 and the No. 4 spots with two deals totaling \$425 million. Call it a bubble or a boom, it was a big year for Internet-specific companies, which captured \$7.1 billion in funding in 2013 — the highest level of investment since 2001. □



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## US man pleads guilty over ricin letter charges

**HOLBROOK MOHR**

**Associated Press**

**OXFORD, Mississippi (AP)**

— A former martial arts instructor pleaded guilty Friday to sending poison-laced letters to President Barack Obama and other officials in a bizarre case in which authorities say he tried to frame a longtime enemy and Elvis impersonator who was briefly jailed in the case.

Under a plea agreement reached with prosecutors, James Everett Dutschke would serve 25 years in prison. Dutschke, 42, shackled and wearing an orange jail uniform, glanced around at a few dozen spectators, mostly lawyers, reporters and law students from the nearby University of Mississippi, as he was led into U.S. District Court in Oxford, Mississippi.

When called to stand before the judge, Dutschke, a martial artist, approached with confidence, his back straight and chin up. He answered the judge's first questions, such as age and level of education, in a clear, strong voice. But when the judge began going over the process of pleading guilty, Dutschke choked up, using a tissue to blow his nose. He later regained his composure.

Dutschke appeared to have a hard time pleading guilty to a list of factual elements read by a prosecutor, telling the judge he didn't agree with some of what was alleged.

After some discussion, the judge asked Dutschke again if he was voluntarily pleading guilty. He looked down, paused and took a deep breath.

"I am voluntarily entering this plea and I understand fully in doing so that I am accepting responsibility for everything that he mentioned," Dutschke said. He said the possibility of spending the rest of his life in prison if convicted by a jury was a factor in his plea decision. Dutschke had previously pleaded not guilty and denied sending the letters. □

## Budget vote brings rare truce in US fiscal wars

**TOM RAUM**

**Associated Press**

**WASHINGTON (AP)**

— After last fall's tumultuous, bitterly partisan debt ceiling and government shutdown battles, a sense of fiscal fatigue seems to be setting in among many U.S. policymakers as President Barack Obama prepares for his fifth State of the Union address later this month.

dropped to 6.7 percent from 7 percent in November, the lowest level since October 2008. Much of the decline came from Americans who stopped looking for jobs and are no longer being counted by the government as unemployed. Meanwhile, a growing number of baby boomers are retiring.

the country in 2014."

Last October, Republican conservatives forced a 16-day government shutdown with their failed attempt to defund Obama's health insurance overhaul. But any public relations advantage Democrats may have reaped from that episode may have been eroded or lost in the prob-

of the House and Senate Budget committees. It funds the government through Sept. 30, eases across-the-board government mandatory spending cuts and eliminates, for now, the likelihood of an election-year government shutdown.

The measure passed the House 359-67 on Wednesday.



**A woman looks at the U.S. Capitol in Washington. After last fall's tumultuous, bitterly partisan debt ceiling and government shutdown battles, a sense of fiscal fatigue seems to be setting in among many Washington policymakers as President Barack Obama prepares for his fifth State of the Union address later this month.**

**(AP Photo/Jacquelyn Martin)**

dress later this month.

A declining U.S. budget deficit, still-accommodative Federal Reserve and a small-bore budget deal negotiated last month — given final approval Thursday in Congress — are helping to temper partisan rhetoric in the short term as attention in Washington shifts to the approaching midterm elections.

The recovery from the deep recession of 2007-2009 has been one of the slowest in history and still has a ways to go, especially in terms of regaining lost jobs. That was driven home by a Labor Department report last Friday that U.S. employers added just 74,000 jobs last month, far fewer than had been forecast and the smallest monthly gain in three years.

The overall jobless rate

Still, economists are generally predicting a pickup in economic growth in 2014 amid a continued favorable climate of low inflation, falling oil prices, a housing recovery and the Fed sticking to its plan to only slowly pare back the hundreds of billions of dollars in financial stimulus it has pumped into the economy over the past four years.

Meanwhile, recent polls show rising public distaste for brinkmanship and dysfunction on both sides of the political divide in Washington. In a recent poll, conducted by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, 70 percent said they lacked confidence in the government's ability "to make progress on the important problems and issues facing

lem-plagued rollout of the health care program.

Leaders of both parties are expressing frustration over the recent bouts of gridlock that come from divided control of government, with Democrats now controlling both the executive branch and the Senate and Republicans ruling the House. Neither party wants to bear the blame for the perceived dysfunction — while both sides are quick to blame the other for it. And both sides are trying to better position themselves as they calculate strategy with a close eye on potential midterm wins and losses.

The \$1.1 trillion spending compromise grew out of an agreement negotiated last month by Rep. Paul Ryan and Sen. Patty Murray — leaders respectively

day and the Senate 72-26 on Thursday. Obama was expected to sign it in time to prevent any interruption in government funding Saturday at midnight.

It was a modest agreement, not the grand bargain some had hoped for. But for once, at least, the two sides were roughly on the same page and debate, for once, was mostly muted.

"It's bipartisan, bicameral. We did it because we listened to each other and functioned with maximum respect," said Sen. Barbara Mikulski, chairwoman of the Senate Appropriations Committee. "No one wants to shut the government down on either side," Sen. Richard Shelby of Arizona, the committee's top Republican, told colleagues. □



# 16 killed, including foreigners, in Kabul cafe blasts

MATTHEW ROSENBERG  
© 2014 New York Times  
KABUL, Afghanistan - Three Taliban suicide bombers struck a restaurant popular with Westerners in downtown Kabul on Friday, setting off a blast outside that shook the city's diplomatic quarter and killed at least 16 people, including foreigners, the police said.

Police officers arriving on the scene scrambled to determine if other attackers with guns were holed up inside the cafe, La Taverna, as reported on Afghan television news stations. The police could not immediately confirm the reports.

"I can't exactly say if there is an attacker inside the compound," said Sediq Seddiq, a spokesman for the Interior Ministry. "Police are trying to help those people wounded during the explosion."

Gen. Zaher Zaher, the police chief, put the death toll at 16.

The police swarmed through the neighborhood, Wazir Akbar Khan, after the blast, blocking off streets and setting up roadblocks. Officials said the bomber had detonated explosives outside

La Taverna, a Lebanese restaurant whose clientele is made up largely of expatriates and well-heeled Afghans.

Within an hour of the attack, the Taliban emailed reporters saying it had targeted "a foreign restaurant where foreign invaders were having dinner."

The Taliban, who routinely inflate the impact of their attacks, claimed to have inflicted heavy casualties and said they had killed a high-ranking German official. That claim could not be immediately confirmed.

The bombing was the second in less than two weeks that targeted foreigners in Kabul. On Jan. 4, the Taliban claimed responsibility for an explosion at an entrance to a predominantly U.S. military base in the heart of the city. The U.S.-led coalition said there had been no casualties.

The restaurant explosion Friday shook windows across much of central Kabul, and sporadic bursts of gunfire could be heard for minutes afterward.

Western embassies and the United Nations warned their staff members to stay away from neighborhood, or stay inside if they were

nearby.

The U.S. Embassy, a number of European embassies and the headquarters of the NATO-led coalition are all within a mile of where the blast occurred, though most are on streets blocked

by multiple barricades and blast walls.

La Taverna, in contrast, is relatively easy to reach on foot or in a vehicle. Guests are ordinarily patted down by security guards before entering, but the guards

would not have searched a car approaching the restaurant.

The Norwegian Embassy is on the same block. There was no immediate word whether the embassy had sustained any damage. □



Police officers stand guard near the site of a suicide attack on a restaurant in Kabul, Afghanistan, Jan. 17, 2013. Three Taliban suicide bombers struck Taverna du Liban, a Lebanese restaurant whose clientele is made up largely of expatriates and well-heeled Afghans, on Friday, setting off a blast outside that shook the city's diplomatic quarter and killed at least 16 people, including foreigners, the police said.

(Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

## Britain:

### Man arrested on suspicion of terrorism

LONDON (AP) — British police say they have arrested a man on suspicion of attending a terrorist training camp in Syria.

West Midlands Police said the 21-year-old man from Birmingham in central England was arrested by counterterrorism officers after he returned to Gatwick Airport from Istanbul.

The police force said Friday

night's arrest wasn't connected to the arrest of two men on suspicion of Syria-linked terror offenses earlier this week.

The two men arrested Monday were also from Birmingham.

They are among a handful of people arrested in the U.K. in recent months on suspicion of traveling to Syria to fight. □

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# Syria proposes cease-fire in war-torn city of Aleppo

BEN HUBBARD

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BEIRUT - The Syrian government on Friday proposed a cease-fire with rebel forces in the city of Aleppo and said it was willing to exchange detainee lists with the opposition to pave the way for a possible prisoner exchange.

The proposals - which Walid al-Moallem, the Syrian foreign minister, said he had given to Russia - appeared to be an effort by the government to show good faith days before an international peace conference aimed at ending Syria's civil war is to be convened in Switzerland.

It remains unclear who will attend the conference, set to open Jan. 22. Although the Syrian government has accepted the invitation, it has suggested the conference's goal should be to fight "terrorism." The West is increasingly concerned about extremist militants in the insurgency and their potential to become a threat outside Syria, but the government uses terrorism to describe the entire

rebel movement that seeks to topple President Bashar Assad, so such statements suggest an unwillingness to engage with legitimate grievances against his rule. Many of the government's enemies have deep reservations about the conference and the opposition's exile leadership, the National Coalition of Syrian Revolutionary and Opposition Forces, was meeting in Istanbul on Friday to decide whether to attend.

The United States and other Western powers have put great pressure on the coalition's leadership to attend the conference, seeing it as the best way to end a nearly 3-year-old war that has killed more than 120,000 people.

While few expect that the conference will fulfill its stated goal of creating a transitional government with full executive powers, its supporters hope that it will at least lead to increased humanitarian access and local cease-fires to make life easier for Syrian civilians. Moallem provided few details on the government's

proposals. In a joint news conference in Moscow with Sergei V. Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, Moallem said Lavrov would make the contacts necessary to "establish a zero

While leaders in Syria's opposition did not respond immediately to the proposals, trust between the parties is nonexistent. The government has violated cease-fires in the past and

still sharply disagree on the conference's goals.

On Friday, Haitham al-Maleh, a member of the opposition coalition, told Al-Jazeera television that the group would not ne-



**Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, right, and his Syrian counterpart Walid al-Moallem arrive for talks in Moscow, Russia, on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014. Syria's Foreign Minister said Friday that his country is prepared to implement a cease-fire in the war-torn city of Aleppo and exchange detainees with the country's opposition forces as confidence building measures ahead of a peace conference opening next week in Switzerland.**

(AP Photo/Ivan Sekretarev)

hour for a cease-fire and the cessation of military operations" in Aleppo, Syria's largest city.

He also said that the Syrian government agreed "in principle" to exchange people held in Syrian prisons for those "kidnapped by armed groups" and that it was willing to trade lists and discuss how to carry out an exchange.

activists and rebel leaders have accused it of using local truces to impose surrender on rebel areas.

The government, for its part, dismisses all opposition to its rule as terrorism and points out that the coalition represents few of the opposition fighters on the ground.

Despite international efforts to guarantee participation by both sides, they

gotiate "with the regime" but only "to remove the regime."

In Moscow, Moallem suggested that the government expected few key changes to come from the conference and would continue "to protect the ambitions of the Syrian people and carry out the directions of President Bashar al-Assad." □

## UN official describes 'horror' in South Sudan

SOMINI SENGUPTA

© 2014 New York Times

UNITED NATIONS - A top U.N. human rights official visiting South Sudan described "horror" Friday, with bodies on the streets and reports of mass killings, sexual violence and the recruitment of children into battle.

At the end of a four-day visit to the country, the official, Ivan Simonovic, the assistant secretary general for human rights, said "mass atrocities" had been committed by both sides as fighters loyal to the South

Sudanese president, Salva Kiir, battle forces aligned with his ousted rival, former Vice President Riek Machar, for control of strategic towns.

What began as a political contest, Simonovic said, has turned into a full-scale communal conflict, pitting the country's two main ethnic groups, the Dinka and the Nuer, against each other. "People on both sides are absolutely convinced that the other side is to blame, which makes the situation even more dan-

gerous," he said in a statement. On a visit to the town of Bentiu, which he called a ghost town after several bouts of fighting, he said he saw 15 corpses lying on a road.

His statement echoed a report from Human Rights Watch the day before, which documented, among other acts of violence, a massacre of 200 to 300 men in the Gudele neighborhood of Juba, the South Sudanese capital, on Dec. 16. They were taken to a police station and shot. □



# No one will be targeted at Olympics, Putin says

ANDREW ROTH

© 2014 New York Times

MOSCOW - Seeking to head off one of several simmering controversies ahead of next month's Winter Olympics, President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia said Friday that no one would be targeted at the games under a federal law banning "homosexual propaganda" among minors, even as he defended the law as a way to protect children from exposure to nontraditional relationships.

In a meeting with dozens of young volunteers weeks before the games open Feb. 7 at the Black Sea resort of Sochi, the president said the law, which has generated international criticism, is far less draconian than anti-gay measures in other countries, including laws that once prohibited sodomy in parts of the United States.

"We are not forbidding anything, and nobody is being hauled in," Putin said in remarks broadcast by Russian state news media. "There is no punishment for these kinds of relations, unlike many other countries, including the United States, where several states have

criminal penalties for non-traditional sexual orientations."

Putin said visitors to Sochi, including gay men and lesbians, could be "relaxed and calm."

"But please, leave the children alone," he added.

The law, signed by Putin in June, authorizes arrests and fines for those who spread "propaganda of nontraditional sexual orientations" among minors, a legal term that critics have called vague and that relies on Russian prosecutors and judges for interpretation.

President Barack Obama sent a protest of the law last month by appointing Billie Jean King, a pioneering tennis player who is a lesbian, to an official Olympic delegation that he said "represents the diversity" of the United States.

Putin's defense of the law is the latest move by Russian officials to halt growing criticism of the preparations for the games, which have included ill treatment of migrant laborers, environmental damage from construction, allegations of corruption and concerns over security after two bombings in the southern

city of Volgograd rocked the country last month. Two more bombings Friday in Dagestan, a restive republic in the North Caucasus, reportedly injured five Russian civilians and two po-

licemen, according to The Associated Press, which said the attack was reported moments after the Putin interview was broadcast.

On Thursday, Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Kozak, who

has taken a leading role in planning the games, said reports of corruption among construction companies building the Olympic sites and infrastructure were "anecdotal." □



Russian President Vladimir Putin, background centre, speaks at his meeting with Olympic volunteers in the Black Sea resort of Sochi, Russia, Friday, Jan. 17, 2014. Putin says gays should feel welcome at the upcoming Winter Olympic Games in Sochi, but they must "leave the children in peace." Putin told volunteers Friday that gays visiting Sochi "can feel calm and at ease," and vowed that there would be no discrimination at the games. But he emphasized that, according to a law banning homosexual "propaganda" among minors, gays cannot express their views on gay rights issues to anyone underage.

(AP Photo/Alexei Nikolsky)

## Australia and Indonesia tensions rise

JOE COCHRANE

© 2014 New York Times

JAKARTA, Indonesia - An Indonesian government official said Friday that the country would increase maritime security patrols following an admission by Australia of breaching Indonesia's territorial waters this week during operations to repel boats carrying migrants.

The announcement is the latest diplomatic row between the two countries over asylum seekers.

Agus R. Barnas, spokesman for Indonesia's Ministry of Legal, Political and Security Affairs, denounced the incursions, saying that Indonesia had "a legitimate right to protect and defend its sovereignty and territorial integrity in accordance with international law and the U.N. charter."

The Australian government implemented a contentious policy in September to stop thousands of people, mostly from South Asia and the Middle East, from using Indonesia as a transit point to board rickety boats bound for Australia to seek asylum. The policy included a plan to force the boats back into Indonesian waters.

Earlier Friday, Scott Morrison, the immigration minister, had told a news conference in Canberra, the Australian capital, that at least one border protection boat Wednesday had "inadvertently entered Indonesian territorial waters on several occasions in breach of Australian government policy." He said the government would offer an "unqualified apology" to Indonesia. □



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## Kiev: Sweeping restrictions take aim at protesters

© 2014 New York Times

The Ukrainian Parliament this week pushed through sweeping legislation outlawing the installation of unauthorized tents in public spaces and imposing other new restrictions on protests that seemed aimed at authorizing the government to clear hundreds of demonstrators occupying Independence Square in Kiev, the capital. The law, hustled through Parliament in a surprise move by supporters of President Viktor F. Ya-

nukovich, drew immediate criticism from opposition leaders in Ukraine and from Western nations, including the United States. They accused lawmakers of circumventing normal legislative procedures in a bid to suppress dissent by restricting freedom of speech and freedom of assembly.

Demonstrators have occupied Independence Square in central Kiev since early December. Mass protests in Ukraine began in late November over Yanu-

kovich's decision to back away from signing political and free-trade agreements with the European Union that had been in development for years. After a violent crackdown by the police on peaceful protesters, opposition groups seized control of the square, establishing a tent encampment and occupying several public buildings, including City Hall.

Thursday's measure was approved by Parliament, called the Verkhovna

Rada, by a show of hands. "Some of these measures will restrict the right to peacefully protest and exercise the freedom of speech, constrain independent media, and inhibit the operation" of nongovernmental organizations, the U.S. State Department said in a statement Thursday, adding "The process and substance of the Rada's actions today cast serious doubt on Ukraine's commitment to democratic norms." □

## Bird flu spread worries China ahead of peak travel season

KEITH BRADSHER

© 2014 New York Times

**HONG KONG** - China is disclosing a steadily growing number of cases of H7N9 bird flu, including four more cases announced Friday, reviving concerns among health experts that the disease may be spreading and could pose a further threat as the world's largest annual human migration begins ahead of Chinese New Year.

Mainland China has confirmed 14 cases this week alone, including the four announced Friday, plus seven Thursday.

Human cases of H7N9 avian influenza virus began to emerge in late March near Shanghai, infecting 131 people, including 26 who died, by early May. The virus then seemed to fade away, as influenza viruses often do over the summer. The virus then re-emerged much earlier in the season last October with a trickle of cases, and that trickle has now accelerated in January.

The accelerated tempo of cases comes just before people across China begin their traditional trips to family reunions for celebrations of the lunar new year, which arrives Jan. 31 this year. The official lunar new year travel season in China began Thursday, with the government estimating that 3.62 billion trips would be taken in the next 40 days by road, train, airplane and other modes of transportation.

Many of those trips are to hometowns in rural areas, as a large majority of today's Chinese grew up in the countryside even though the country as a whole became more than 50 percent urban in 2011 because of heavy migration to factories, construction sites and universities in cities.

Contact with poultry, common in rural areas, is still the main route of infection for the virus. □

## Rahul Gandhi shuns race for India prime minister

ELLEN BARRY

© 2014 New York Times

**NEW DELHI** - At a major gathering of the Indian National Congress on Friday, Sonia Gandhi announced that her son Rahul would

vice president, finally took the podium himself and held his hands in the air, telling the audience to remain calm and promising to share "what is in my heart" in an address later

corruption scandals and a flagging economy, Congress looks unlikely to retain control of the next Parliament, especially after deep losses in four state assembly elections in De-

harmoniously in one composite national identity.

Rahul Gandhi's role in the contest had remained stubbornly unclear for months, even as Narendra Modi, leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party, has fine-tuned his image as a take-charge candidate. Modi has seemed eager to highlight the contrast between the two men, casting himself as a self-made man, the son of a tea stall owner, and Gandhi as a cosseted "shehjada," or prince.

Not naming Rahul Gandhi the prime ministerial candidate means sacrificing some of his star power in a country that reserves reverence for his father, grandmother and great-grandfather, who all served as prime minister. But Gandhi has not proven an especially charismatic presence at campaign events and at times has projected reluctance about his role in government, rarely speaking at parliamentary sessions or expressing a stance in national debates.

Taking a back seat ahead of general elections could allow Gandhi to escape damage as a potential candidate if Congress performs badly. Gandhi has shown intense interest in reorganizing the party's structure, including introducing internal competition for positions within the party's youth wing, and insiders say he may hope to immerse himself in that work after the May elections. □



India's ruling Congress party Vice President Rahul Gandhi attends the All India Congress Committee (AICC) meet to prepare for the upcoming polls in New Delhi, India, Friday, Jan. 17, 2014. Members of the Congress party erupted in rapturous applause Friday for Rahul Gandhi, heir to the country's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, who is leading the struggling party's campaign in the general election in May.

(AP Photo/Altaf Qadri)

not be nominated for the post of prime minister in upcoming elections, signaling a key decision by the family that has dominated this country's politics for decades.

"We took a decision on Rahul yesterday, and the decision is final," she said.

The announcement provoked chants of "Rahul PM" from party loyalists that were so sustained that Rahul Gandhi, the party's

in the day.

Although word of the decision was made public after a party gathering Thursday, some commentators saw enough ambiguity in the scene to question whether Sonia Gandhi had in fact given the final word. When the current prime minister, Manmohan Singh, mentioned Rahul Gandhi in his own remarks, the chants of "Rahul" resumed.

Damaged by a series of

cember.

In her remarks, Sonia Gandhi warned that victory by the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party risked dividing the country along religious lines.

"These elections will be a battle for India as it was conceived by our founding fathers" she said. "It will be a battle for the preservation of our age-old secular traditions, traditions of diverse communities living





In The Hague, Netherlands:

## Aruban Alwin Toppenberg opens national exhibition 'Ode To Beatrix'



lished by Comello BV. This special birthday calendar is allowed to carry the logo of the national committee that is organizing all official

in Heeswijk Dinther, Abdij Rolduc in Kerkrade, Het Web in Doetinchem, Museum Oud Soest and now at Marcello's Art Factory |

**THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS:** Drs Alwin Toppenberg from Aruba opened the national exhibition 'Ode to Beatrix' in HAAGS Gallery in The Hague on Sunday January 12, 2014. This exhibition contains work of 50 professional Dutch artists from all parts of the country. Motive and inspiration were the House of Orange as well as the celebration of 200 years of the Dutch Kingdom.

Artist painter Gustave Nouel from Aruba and sculptor Patrick Mezas from Curacao have been participating from the start of this artist initiative of professional Dutch artists, the Orange Artists Group. Mr. Toppenberg promised in his opening speech to do his utmost to help bring this convincing exhibition inspired by the House of Orange, to the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.



Also present mr. Hubert Maduro, representing Aruba in the Raad van State, the highest governmental organ in Holland, promised to help. Gustave Nouel handed mr. Toppenberg the Orange birthday calendar with images of his paintings, pub-

celebrations related to 200 years in the entire Dutch Kingdom. This unique exhibition of the Orange Artists Group, is a travelling exhibition and has already been shown at Galerie Bernheze in Nistelrode, De Ring in Epe, Kasteel Heeswijk

Galerie HAAGS and will be travelling through the entire Netherlands until Prinsjesdag 2015. Ode to Beatrix can be seen till the 10th of February 2014 at the Galerie HAAGS, Koningin Emmakade 148, The Hague. (near the Arubahuis). □



# Loyal visitors honored by ATA at the Marriott Ocean Club

**PALM BEACH** - Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples, whom are loyal and friendly Visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Ocean Club as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary titles are presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of apprecia-

tion to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Rick and Peggy Thompson of Red Wing, Minnesota, and Fred and Lola Springer of Olney, Maryland. The honorees are loyal members of the Marriott Ocean Club and they love Aruba very much because of the friendly people, the weath-

er, beaches, restaurants, and being on Aruba and staying at the Ocean Club is like being home for them. The certificates were presented by Mr. Ernest Giel representing the Aruba Tourism Authority together with Lisette Bouwman, Lilian Britten and Erwin Noguera GM at the Marriott Ocean Club. □



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**Tonight, Saturday, January 18:**

## Arikok Launches New Season of Movie Night at the Park!

**- FREE entrance - Movie starts at 7:30 PM inside Aruba's National Park Arikok**

**SAN FUEGO, January 18 -** On Saturday, January 18, Arikok National Park starts a new season of its highly popular monthly activity, Movie Night at the Park,

showing documentaries with a focus on nature and the importance of nature conservation. During the upcoming movie night double episodes of the Planet Earth series Saving Species and Into the Wilderness will be shown. The Movie Night at the

Park starts at 7:30pm and finishes at 9:30pm. Visitors of all ages, tourists and locals alike, can enjoy this movie night in the magnificent setting of Aruba's national park, under a starlit sky. By offering this unique opportunity the Park aims to reach a broad target



group and create more awareness for the importance of nature.

The Movie Night at the Park is free of charge and takes place in front of the Visitor Center at the main entrance of the Park in San Fuego. A food and beverage stand is available, offering local drinks and snacks at a small fee. Chairs are provided as well, however you are allowed to bring your own chairs or blankets and your own picnic bas-

kets. The Arikok Facebook page provides exact dates of the Park's monthly movie night during the remainder of the year. Usually the movie night takes place each last Saturday of the month. Due to a bat monitoring project the Movie Night at the Park in January will take place on Saturday January 18th.

For more information please visit [www.arubanationalpark.org](http://www.arubanationalpark.org) or Facebook. [com/ArikokNationalPark](https://www.facebook.com/ArikokNationalPark). □



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## Seahawks don't see problems with offense

TIM BOOTH

AP Sports Writer

RENTON, Washington (AP)

— Quarterback Russell Wilson and the Seattle Seahawks offense haven't exactly produced impressive numbers during the past month.

But ask Wilson and coach Pete Carroll if there are worries heading into the NFC Championship game against San Francisco on Sunday and, while they say they would like to see more consistency, they say the numbers aren't the important thing.

"We're always looking for more and he is too," Carroll said. "But as long as our football team is playing well and we're playing within the formula and we're playing good defense, we're running the football, we're playing on (special) teams, and we're taking care of the ball and getting it, we're going to have a really good chance to win. And that's what's most important to us. It's not about the stats." Seattle advanced to the NFC Championship game despite a career-low pass-



Seattle Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson rolls out against the New Orleans Saints during the first half of an NFC divisional playoff NFL football game in Seattle, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014.

Associated Press

ing performance from Wilson, who threw for 103 yards in the 23-15 win over the New Orleans Saints. It was the fourth time in the past five games that Wilson failed to top 200 yards passing and the Seahawks had less than 300 yards of total offense.

The Seahawks were helped by a huge day from Marshawn Lynch, running for 140 yards and two touchdowns in his best game since Nov. 10. And the passing numbers against New Orleans were skewed by the awful weather conditions with strong winds and heavy rain making throwing the football a challenge.

But the lack of consistency by the passing game versus New Orleans, against a team Wilson had carved up earlier in the season, only heightened fan worries heading into Sunday.

"We've played some really good defenses and they've made some plays. There's definitely room for improvement, especially on my part," Wilson said.

Continued on Page 21



This Jan. 7, 2014 file photo shows Los Angeles Dodgers pitcher Clayton Kershaw at the end of an NBA basketball game between the Los Angeles Lakers and Dallas Mavericks in Dallas.

Associated Press

BETH HARRIS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Pitcher Clayton Kershaw has

## AP source: Kershaw, Dodgers agree to \$215M deal

agreed to a \$215 million, seven-year contract with the Los Angeles Dodgers, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press, making him baseball's first player with a \$30 million average salary. The person spoke on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced.

Kershaw receives the most lucrative deal for a pitcher, breaking the mark of \$180 million set by Justin Verlander last March for his seven-year contract with Detroit.

Kershaw would have been eligible for free agency after the upcoming season if the new deal had not been reached.

The average salary of \$30.7 million tops the previous high of \$27.5 million, set by the New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez as part of a 10-year agreement signed in December 2007.

While Roger Clemens had a contract with a listed salary of \$28 million with the Yankees in 2007, he joined the team in June and actually made \$17.4 million. The Dodgers had base-

ball's second-highest payroll at the end of the 2013 regular season — more than \$236 million.

Kershaw's agreement, first reported by ESPN.com, is baseball's seventh of \$200 million or more.

Among current contracts, it trails only the agreements of Rodriguez, Cincinnati first baseman Joey Votto (\$251.5 million over 12 years),

Los Angeles Angels first baseman Albert Pujols (\$240 million over 10 years) and Seattle second baseman Robinson Cano (\$240

million over 10 years).

A left-hander who turns 26 in March, Kershaw won National League's Cy Young Awards as top pitcher in 2011 and 2013.

He led the league with 232 strikeouts, and his 1.83 ERA was the best in the major leagues since Pedro Martinez's 1.74 for Boston in 2000. He has led the NL in ERA for three years straight.

The season ended on a sour note when he pitched poorly in the Dodgers' 9-0 loss to St. Louis in the NL championship series that eliminated them. □



# Welker can't pick between Manning, Brady

ARNIE STAPLETON

AP Pro Football Writer  
ENGLEWOOD, Colorado  
(AP) — He traded Picasso

for Michelangelo. Or maybe it was the other way around.

While John Elway famously said he had no Plan B when he signed Peyton Manning in 2012, Wes Welker certainly had one when the New England Patriots offered him on a reduced contract last winter.

Welker jumped at the chance to team up with Manning in Denver, where he signed a two-year deal for \$12 million, \$1 million more per year than the Patriots offered.

After spending six seasons as Tom Brady's top target in New England, Welker was Manning's leading receiver before missing the final month of the season with a concussion.

He still finished with 73 receptions for 778 yards and a career-best 10 touchdowns and added another in Denver's 24-17 win over San Diego in the playoffs last weekend.

After an unhappy homecoming at Foxborough in November, when his blunder on a punt in the wind led to a 34-31 loss to New England, Welker gets another chance to stick it to his old team on Sunday when the Broncos and Patriots square off with a trip to the Super Bowl on the line.

Welker has been asked ever since his arrival in Denver to compare the two quarterbacks with Hall of Fame credentials, something he finds harder to do than to go across the middle with a menacing middle linebacker bearing down on him.

"It's like comparing Picasso and Michelangelo," he said. "It's hard to compare

the two."

Welker isn't sure if he's a Michelangelo guy or a Picasso guy, either.

"I couldn't even tell you," Welker confessed, revealing he's less of an aficionado than he is a connoisseur of quarterbacks. "Somebody threw those names at me one time and I thought it sounded pretty good."

He admitted Manning was the only other quarterback he wanted to play for after being spoiled by all those Brady spirals from 2007-12.

"I'll try and answer this and be as indifferent as possible," Welker said. "There aren't too many differences. They are great quarterbacks. They do a great job of keeping guys accountable, and their leadership skills and everything else. They are two guys you want quarterbacking your team. It's a toss-up between those two."

The meticulous Manning, known for his grinding work ethic, found a kindred spirit in Welker.

"I always assumed that he was an extremely competitive guy that loved football and a guy that loved to work, he loved to practice, the way he played — I saw him many a time play in Colts vs. the Patriots — so to have him become a Bronco, all those things checked out," Manning said.

"He's a gym rat. He loves the game, loves to work after practice, loves to talk in meetings about routes that he thinks might have a chance to get open. He's very knowledgeable of defenses and how teams have played him in the past, whether they've double-covered him or whatever it may be.

"So he's been a fun guy to play with, I'll say that." □



Denver Broncos wide receiver Wes Welker (83) catches a pass for a touchdown against the San Diego Chargers in the second quarter of an NFL AFC division playoff football game, Sunday, Jan. 12, 2014, in Denver.

Associated Press

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**STUUR**



# Thunder overruns hot-and-cold Rockets

The Associated Press

**HOUSTON (AP)** — Kevin Durant scored 36 points and Reggie Jackson added 23 to lift the Oklahoma City Thunder to a 104-92 win over the Houston Rockets on Thursday night.

NBA RoundupThe Thunder used a big third quarter to erase a 12-point deficit and tie the score entering the fourth. The teams stayed within a basket after that until Jackson scored five points in a 7-0 run which gave the Thunder a 97-89 lead with about 4 minutes left.

Oklahoma City scored four quick points capped by a fast break dunk by Jackson a couple minutes later to stretch the lead to 103-92. James Harden and Terrence Jones scored 16 points each for Houston, which scored just 19 second-half points after posting a season-high 73 points in the first half — setting an



Houston Rockets' Dwight Howard (12) shoots as Oklahoma City Thunder's Serge Ibaka (9) defends during the first quarter of an NBA basketball game, Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014, in Houston.

Associated Press

NBA record for the largest scoring differential between two halves.

**NETS 127, HAWKS 110**

**LONDON (AP)** — Joe Johnson scored 26 of his 29 points in the first half and Andray Blatche added 20 points and 14 rebounds to lead Brooklyn past Atlanta in the fourth regular-season NBA game played in the British capital.

Johnson had 15 points in the first quarter, including 11 straight for the Nets (16-22) late in the period.

Mike Scott and Shelvin Mack, both coming off the bench, led the Hawks with 17 points each.

Both teams finished with five players scoring in double digits.

The Nets were playing a regular-season game at the O2 Arena in London for the third time. They played two against the Toronto Raptors in 2011, winning both.

**PACERS 117, KNICKS 89**

**INDIANAPOLIS (AP)** — Lance Stephenson scored a career-high 28 points, Paul George added 25, and Indiana won its ninth straight at home.

The Pacers have won three in a row overall and still have the NBA's best record and the league's top home record (20-1). Indiana leads idle Miami by four games in the chase for the Eastern Conference's top seed.

Carmelo Anthony had 18 of his 28 points in the first quarter to lead New York. J.R. Smith, who was benched in two of the previous four games, played 28 minutes and scored 12 points. The Knicks have lost two straight after winning five in a row.

Indiana took control with an 11-1 run midway through the second quarter, then closed the first half on a 16-7 run to make it 63-48. New York never challenged again. □



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CASINO AND SHOPS



# Ted Ligety wins 1st World Cup super-combined

GRAHAM DUNBAR

AP Sports Writer

WENGEN, Switzerland (AP)

— Ted Ligety was already the favorite for Olympic gold in giant slalom. He may have just made himself the frontrunner in another discipline as well.

The American giant slalom specialist earned his first super-combined victory on the World Cup on Friday — a discipline he already owns an Olympic and world championship title in but had curiously never won on the season-long circuit.

The American trailed Alexis Pinturault of France after the morning slalom leg but surpassed last year's Wengen super-combined winner in the decisive downhill run on the classic Lauberhorn slope.

"This is definitely a big victory for me," said Ligety, whose previous 19 career World Cup wins all came in giant slalom. "It's a nice little confidence boost and step in the right direction for getting ready for Sochi."

Ligety won three gold medals at the 2013 world championships at Schladming, Austria, but has struggled to establish himself as an all-around skier on the grueling World Cup tour.

"It is going to be difficult to



**Ted Ligety, of the United States, competes on his way to win an alpine ski, men's World Cup super-combined, in Wengen, Switzerland, Friday, Jan. 17, 2014.**

Associated Press

repeat what I did in Schladming — that was kind of a dream two weeks," Ligety acknowledged. "I know I have the ability to be on the podium in combined and super-G if things stack up for me."

They did Friday on what United States head coach Sasha Rearick called a "great day" for the team, citing a key assist from teammate Bode Miller.

Ligety overturned a 1.22-second deficit from

the slalom to beat Pinturault by 0.22. Natko Zrnjic-Dim of Croatia was third, trailing 1.08 behind Ligety's combined two-run time of 2 minutes, 44.74 seconds. Pinturault suggested he and Ligety are the main medal contenders in the Sochi super-combined scheduled for Feb. 14.

"Yes, of course. The big challengers for me is going to be Ted Ligety and Ivica Kostelic, for sure," said the 22-year-old Frenchman.

Ligety, Pinturault and Marcel Hirscher are the established big three in a high-class giant slalom line-up, and the American's latest downhill display suggested his world title in super-combined was no fluke.

"I had a way of figuring out how to win the big events, like Olympics and world championships, in combined but never put together the runs I needed to win a World Cup," said Ligety, who won at the 2006 Turin

Winter Game when the combined included two slalom legs.

On Friday, the coaches' strategy for Ligety's downhill was fine-tuned by Miller's radio briefing, minutes after he skied down to an eventual ninth-place finish on a soft course worsening fast in mid-afternoon sunshine.

"Bode confirmed a couple of things where you could trim the race line and avoid a couple of holes," Rearick said. "We changed the report a few times on many sections and Ted executed every one of them beautifully and aggressively."

"That was impressive," the U.S. head coach said.

Miller, the reigning super-combined Olympic champion, finished 2.15 seconds behind Ligety after being seventh fastest in tricky slalom conditions in the morning.

Aksel Lund Svindal of Norway finished fifth and took the overall World Cup lead from Austrian rival Hirscher, who skips speed events. Svindal earned 45 World Cup points to lead Hirscher by 22.

Svindal posted the fastest downhill time Friday, suggesting he could challenge for victory in Saturday's classic downhill for the first time in his storied career. □

## Seahawks

Continued from Page 18

"I always think I can get better and there's tons of throws in there that I can make and I know I will make. So I have no worry about that. I think the ultimate goal is for us to win football games and to be explosive and make the clutch play when we need to."

Ultimately, it's Wilson's job to be a caretaker of the ball and not take undue risks in the passing game. That's what Carroll wants from his quarterback, and Wilson follows, sometimes to the point of frustration by fans. Carroll was asked this week if he thought Wilson was being too conser-

vative.

"No, I really haven't," he said.

Carroll believes that, because being too aggressive can sometimes lead to turnovers and no one values possession more than Seattle. That's why the Seahawks led the NFL this season with a plus-20 turnover differential — they were extremely aggressive on defense and cautious on offense.

"I never play scared. I never have, I never will," Wilson said. "In terms of decision-making, I always try to make the smart decision."

What Seattle has really been missing over the past five weeks is the ability to establish a passing game down the field beyond in-



**Seattle Seahawks running back Marshawn Lynch, top, scores past New Orleans Saints cornerback Corey White (24) for a 15-yard touchdown during the second quarter of an NFC divisional playoff NFL football game in Seattle, Saturday, Jan. 11, 2014.**

Associated Press

termediate routes. According to information from STATS Inc., Seattle has completed just 2 of 16 passes with one touchdown and two interceptions on

passes that have traveled more than 21 yards in the past five games. Even the intermediate passing game of throws between 11 and 20 yards is lacking,

with Wilson going 13 of 24. Seattle has never been a team to make an excessive number of throws downfield, but it was always part of the game plan. In each of the first 13 games this season, Wilson had at least one completion on a pass of 21 or more yards. He was first shut out on Dec. 8 at San Francisco, which coincided with Seattle's offensive sputtering. "I feel like early in the season we took a lot of shots downfield and the defenses have taken notice to that and are trying to limit that," wide receiver Jermaine Kearse said.

"I feel like we just have to continue to stay at it, continue to practice our game plan and just let the plays come to us." □



# Djokovic, Williams into 4th round at Aussie Open



Serena Williams of the U.S. serves to Daniela Hantuchova of Slovakia during their third round match at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Friday, Jan. 17, 2014. Associated Press

JOHN PYE

AP Sports Writer

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)

— The heat wave didn't claim any major casualties at the Australian Open. Novak Djokovic and Serena Williams extended their winning streaks to move into the fourth round, and all except one of the leading contenders made it through to the weekend. Five-time champion Williams saw off the worst of the searing, once-in-a-century conditions that scorched Melbourne for four straight days, beating Daniela Hantuchova 6-3, 6-3 on Friday.

Melbourne Park didn't quite reach the forecast peak of 44 Celsius (111 Fahrenheit) — it did get to 43 C (109 F) — that had some players complaining about "inhumane" conditions.

Williams has never been one to be seriously affected by the heat, but even she had to admit she was looking forward to the cooler conditions expected from Saturday. She also admitted to a little bit of relief after an injury to her sister, Venus, meant they had to withdraw from the doubles. Djokovic used to struggle in the heat, but has grown accustomed to it with three

consecutive Australian titles. He's aiming to be the first man in the Open era to win four in a row, and thinks he's getting there.

He benefited from the cool change that swept in late Friday before his 6-3, 6-3, 7-5 win over Denis Istomin. He wrapped it up at 12:10 a.m., and thanked the crowd — including new coach Boris Becker — for staying past midnight. The only time he was broken was serving for the match — he was clearly irritated but quickly recovered and finished it off two games later.

"As the tournament progresses, I play better and better," Djokovic said.

He has won 24 consecutive matches at Melbourne Park. It's not in the league of Roger Federer's reign at Wimbledon, but he is in contention to be the first man in the Open era to win four consecutive Australian titles. "Well, if I can compare myself to Roger's success in Wimbledon, that's definitely a compliment," he said. "There's still a lot more years to come from me, a lot more to prove."

"This is definitely one of my ...best Grand Slams by far. Results are showing that." Djokovic's overall winning streak stands at 27 match-

es — he hasn't lost since the U.S. Open final last September, when he was beaten by a resurgent Rafael Nadal. He subsequently lost his No. 1 ranking to Nadal, despite winning four straight tournaments at the end of 2013.

The other active major winners are either on the opposite side — Nadal, Andy Murray and Roger Federer play their third-round matches Saturday — or out of the competition. No. 5 Juan Martin del Potro, the 2009 U.S. Open champion, was the biggest casualty of the second round.

Of the contenders on Djokovic's side, third-seeded David Ferrer beat No. 29 Jeremy Chardy 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-2 and No. 7 Tomas Berdych defeated Bosnian qualifier Damir Dzumhur 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Two-time defending women's champion Victoria Azarenka has a Saturday night match, with No. 3-seeded Maria Sharapova opening play on day six against Alize Cornet. Both advanced before the Extreme Heat Policy was imposed on Thursday, with Cornet sobbing as she described the conditions as being like "an oven," and Sharapova surviving 3 ½ hours on court. □



Mini driver Stéphane Peterhansel and co-pilot Jean Paul Cottret, both of France, drive down a mountain during the eleventh stage of the Dakar Rally between the cities of Antofagasta and El Salvador, Chile, Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014.

Associated Press

## Peterhansel takes narrow Dakar Rally lead

LA SERENA, Chile (AP) — Stéphane Peterhansel won the last major sandy stage of the Dakar Rally and overtook Mini teammate Nani Roma on Friday to lead by 26 seconds going into the final day.

The race's outcome appeared to be settled on Thursday, when the four Mini drivers leading the standings were instructed by their team to hold their positions, thereby setting up Roma to win the Dakar's car division 10 years after the Spaniard won the motorbike title when the rally was in North Africa. Now Peterhansel, the most successful driver in Dakar history, could win the world's toughest rally for a 12th time.

The remarkable pace of the four down Chile's Pacific coastline made the team fear a crash would ruin their chance of a podium sweep.

The drivers followed orders on Thursday but attacked the 350-kilometer 12th stage from El Salvador to the Copiapo dunes on Friday, and left the title up for grabs on the rally's shortest leg, the 157-kilometer ride to the finish at Valparaiso on Saturday.

Roma, holding a measly five-minute lead, had a puncture early and was soon overtaken by teammates Peterhansel and Nasser Al-Attiyah of Qatar. Roma also got stuck on a dune but again reeled in Peterhansel and Al-Attiyah. Peterhansel offered to let Roma pass, but Roma stayed back, even when Peterhansel was ahead on overall time with 30 kilometers to go.

"I stopped on the dunes to show him that if he wanted to he could go past, but he didn't want to open the way on the dunes," Peterhansel said. "So I opened on the dunes and finished very calmly."

Roma finally passed Peterhansel just 500 meters from the finish but Peterhansel, taking advantage of a navigation error by Al-Attiyah, won his third stage of the race, extending his Dakar record to 65.

After lying second to Roma for a week, he has the overall lead for the first time since the second stage. But at 26 seconds, it was a mere eye blink in racing terms.

"The gap is small," Roma said. "I'm still here and I'm happy." □



## NHL Capsules

# Zuccarello, Lundqvist lift Rangers over Red Wings

The Associated Press  
NEW YORK (AP) — Mats Zuccarello broke up a scoreless duel between two Olympic goalies when he scored with 5:58 remaining, lifting the New York Rangers to a 1-0 victory over the Detroit Red Wings on Thursday night. Zuccarello floated a puck over Detroit's Jimmy Howard when he drove to the net, putting New York's 45th shot of the night into the net. That was enough for Henrik Lundqvist to earn his third shutout of the season and 48th in his NHL career.

Lundqvist, who made his sixth straight start, stopped 38 shots. Gustav Nyquist slipped a shot behind him with 44.5 seconds remaining, but Lundqvist reached back to cover the puck just before it crossed the line. Howard made 47 saves. The Red Wings were shut out for the second straight game, both times 1-0. Detroit, which hasn't scored a power-play goal in six games in 2014, was beaten at Anaheim on Sunday. The Rangers bounced back from a 2-1 loss to Tampa Bay on Tuesday and completed a 3-1 homestand. New York is 9-3-1 in its past 13 games.

PREDATORS 4, FLYERS 3, SO PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Roman Josi scored the shootout winner to lift Nashville

over Philadelphia.

Josi beat Flyers goalie Steve Mason for the last of a combined five shootout goals to give the Predators the needed road win as they chase a playoff spot. Shea Weber scored a go-ahead goal and had two assists in his first game against Philadelphia since the Flyers made him a \$110 million, 14-year offer in the summer of 2012. The Predators matched the deal, keeping him in Nashville. They had to be glad they had their captain against the Flyers.

Weber snapped a tie game with a power-play goal early in the third period. Wayne Simmonds tied the game 3-all with a power-play goal with 1:24 left in regulation to send the game into OT.

Eric Nystrom and David Legwand also scored in regulation for Nashville. Brayden Schenn and Andrej Meszaros scored for the Flyers.

CANADIENS 5, SENATORS 4, OT

OTTAWA, Ontario (AP) — Carey Price made 40 saves and P.K. Subban scored the overtime winner and Montreal defeated Ottawa.

Subban scored 23 seconds into the extra period as his shot trickled through Craig Anderson's legs.

Tomas Plekanec scored



Nashville Predators goalie Carter Hutton looks over his shoulder as the shot by Philadelphia Flyers' Andrej Meszaros goes in the net to tie the game with 3.6 seconds remaining, in the second period of an NHL hockey game, Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014, in Philadelphia.

Associated Press

twice and Max Pacioretty and David Desharnais also scored for the Canadiens, who defeated the Senators for the first time this season. Clarke MacArthur, Erik Karlsson, Bobby Ryan and Kyle Turris scored for Ottawa. Anderson stopped 18 shots. Trailing 4-3, the Canadiens caught a break on the tying goal midway through the third. Plekanec broke in alone and while Anderson made the initial save, defenseman Jared Cowen watched as the puck went in off his skate.

ISLANDERS 2, LIGHTNING 1,

SO

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Frans Nielsen scored the only shootout goal and assisted on a second-period score by Thomas Vanek in a victory for New York against Tampa Bay.

Nielsen snapped a wrist shot between the pads of Ben Bishop moments after Valtteri Filppula rang a shot off the post to the right of Islanders goalie Kevin Poulin at the other end. The Islanders had a seven-game road winning streak snapped Tuesday at Florida.

Tampa Bay's Martin St. Louis beat Poulin from the right circle to open the scoring on a power play 5:45 into the game, capitalizing on a penalty-killing unit ranked last in the league.

In other NHL games it was Winnipeg 5, Calgary 2; Boston 4, Dallas 2; Denver 2, New Jersey 1, SO; Minnesota 4, Edmonton 1; Los Angeles 4, St. Louis 1; San Jose 3, Florida 0; New York Islander 2, Tampa Bay 1, SO; Montreal 5, Ottawa 4, OT; Nashville 4, Philadelphia 3, SO; and New York Rangers 1, Detroit 0. □

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## US factory output rises again in December

**JOSH BOAK**

**AP Economics Writer**

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — U.S. factory output rose for a fifth straight month in December, as manufacturers cranked out more cars and trucks, appliances and processed food. The gains suggest factories gave economic growth a strong boost at the end of the year.

The Federal Reserve said Friday that factory production rose 0.4 percent in December. That follows gains of 0.6 percent in both November and October. Automakers increased their production 1.8 percent last

month and 10.4 percent year over year.

Higher consumer demand is driving much of the increased manufacturing activity. Production of appliances, furniture, carpeting, food and clothing all grew in December. Output of consumer goods gained 0.5 percent.

Overall industrial production, which includes manufacturing, mining and utilities, increased 0.3 percent in December. That's also the fifth straight monthly gain.

Total production increased 3.7 percent over the last 12 months and has surpassed

its pre-recession peak. Output is now 22 percent above its recession low hit in June 2009, the month the downturn ended.

Other indicators point to continued manufacturing strength. Factory orders climbed 1.8 percent in November. A surge in aircraft demand led the increase in orders, while businesses stepped up spending on machinery, computers and other long-lasting goods.

And despite a slowdown in hiring last month across the broader economy, factories added jobs for the fifth straight month in December. □

## Stocks end week mostly lower on earnings

**STEVE ROTHWELL**

**AP Markets Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Investors weren't impressed with the earnings news from big U.S. companies Friday.

Intel slumped after giving a weak revenue forecast and General Electric dropped after its profit margins fell short. Capital One also fell after the bank's earnings missed expectations.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index slipped 7.19 points, or 0.4 percent, to 1,838.70. The Dow Jones industrial average rose 41.55 points, or 0.3 percent, to 16,458.56. The Nasdaq composite fell 21.11 points, or 0.5 percent, to 4,197.58.

The S&P 500 index retreated from a record high close on Wednesday. It ended the week 0.5 percent lower and continued its lackluster start to January.

Still, many investors aren't ready to give up on the stock market's latest rally, which capped an exceptionally strong 2013 with a gain of almost 10 percent in the final three months of the year.

"Markets don't go straight up to the moon," said Doug Cote, chief market strategist at ING Investment Management.

"This flat-lining is the market regrouping ... it's a healthy pause."

GE slumped 62 cents, or 2.3 percent, to \$26.58 after profit margins in the company's industrial unit fell short of its own targets.

Intel dropped 69 cents, or 2.6 percent, to \$25.85 after its first-quarter revenue forecast disappointed Wall Street.

Intel said revenue would reach \$12.8 billion, "plus or minus" \$500 million, less than analysts expected.

The earnings news on Friday wasn't all bad.

American Express rose \$3.19, or 3.6 percent, to \$90.97 after the company said late Thursday that its net income more than doubled in the fourth quarter. □

## Shell: 4Q earnings will fall 48%

**STANLEY REED**

**© 2014 New York Times**

**LONDON** - Roughly two weeks into his job, the chief executive of Royal Dutch Shell warned Friday that the oil company's fourth-quarter results would be lower than financial markets had anticipated.

"Our 2013 performance was not what I expect from Shell," the executive, Ben van Beurden, said in a statement as the company announced that adjusted earnings for the quarter would shrink to \$2.9 billion, a 48 percent decline compared with the period a year earlier.

Shell, which is based in The Hague, blamed the poor performance on weak industry conditions in refining, higher exploration expenses and lower production of oil and natural gas.

"We're a bit shellshocked this morning after this profit warning, which is highly unusual for an integrated oil company," analysts at Bernstein in London wrote in a research note.

Analysts had expected \$4.9 billion in adjusted earnings for the quarter, according to Bloomberg News. Shell also took a \$700 million impairment write-down.

Shell's shares fell more than 4 percent as markets opened in London, although they recovered some ground and closed the day down 0.9 percent.

Van Beurden, who was head of refining at Shell when he took over the top job at the beginning of the year from Peter Voser, who was retiring, seems to have inherited a situation that has grown more difficult since his promotion was announced last year.

Neill Morton, an Investec analyst, wrote in a note that "Shell has broken with its recent custom of disappointing on earnings day. It is now dishing up the bad news ahead of time."

Van Beurden said that "our focus will be on improving Shell's financial results" and "achieving capital efficiency."

It is possible that van Beurden and Shell are using the early days of his tenure as "a last opportunity for a bit of a bath" - to get as much bad news out of the way as early as possible - Peter Hutton, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets in London, suggested in a note to clients Friday.

The company has now reported three straight quarters of disappointing earnings, and it may be tough for a new chief to turn things around quickly. The oil industry is a long-term business, and it takes years to develop oil fields and other installations that, which, once completed, usually operate for decades.

The disappointing earnings "won't just stop because of a new guy" at the helm, Oswald Clint, an analyst at Bernstein in London, said in an interview by telephone Friday.

Full earnings are scheduled to be released Jan. 30.

Shell's recent results have suffered from a series of factors, some of which are likely to persist. Unrest in Nigeria has lowered oil and gas production, and the company is losing money in its key Americas exploration and production business, where its multibillion dollar Alaskan drilling program has been plagued by accidents and problems.

Shell has also been hurt by the poor environment for refining crude oil into products like gasoline and diesel, especially in Europe, where demand for gasoline has weakened. Analysts say that nearly all refineries in Europe are losing money because they are unable to sell refined products for more than the cost of crude oil and processing.

Van Beurden could begin to make a difference by being more selective about capital expenditures. Shell is spending heavily on oil and gas projects. □



Trader Richard Deviccaro works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, Friday, Jan. 17, 2014. Stocks were mostly lower on Wall Street Friday as investors assessed several weak earnings reports from U.S. companies.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)



## IPO WATCH

### CHC Group falls after IPO prices below estimate

**NEW YORK (AP)** — CHC Group Ltd. shares fell Friday after the helicopter operator's initial public offering raised \$310 million, below its initial expectations.

The IPO of 31 million shares priced at \$10 per share. CHC stock lost 55 cents, or 5.5 percent, to \$9.45 in morning trading.

The company had expected to sell 29.4 million shares for \$16 to \$18 each, but reduced that price to \$12 to \$14 a share on Thursday.

CHC is the parent of CHC Helicopter SA, the world's largest commercial helicopter operator for the offshore oil and gas industry. Its shares are trading under the ticker symbol "HELI."

CHC will use the proceeds of its IPO to repay debt and for general corporate purposes. The underwriters will have an option to buy 4.7 million more shares. □

### RSP Permian IPO climbs in 1st day trading on NYSE

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Shares of RSP Permian are rising in their first day of trading on the New York Stock Exchange.

The independent oil and natural gas company's stock gained 99 cents, or 5.1 percent, to \$20.49 in Friday morning trading.

The initial public offering of 20 million shares priced at \$19.50 per share, within the projected price range of \$19 to \$21 per share.

The offering raised \$390 million.

RSP Permian Inc. is selling about 9.2 million shares, while selling stockholders are selling approximately 10.8 million shares. The Dallas company won't receive any proceeds from shares sold by the selling stockholders.

The stock is trading under the "RSP" ticker symbol. The offering is targeted to close on Thursday. □

## UPS: Last-minute online shopping hurt 4Q profit

**DAVID KOENIG**  
**AP Business Writer**

**DALLAS (AP)** — UPS may be forced to change the way it plans for the holiday season after December shipping problems took a bite out of fourth-quarter earnings. The company said Friday that it took "extraordinary" steps to meet holiday demand, including hiring 85,000 seasonal employees — 30,000 more than planned.

But the company's network of brown trucks and planes was overwhelmed

by what it termed "an unprecedented level" of online shopping including "a surge of last-minute orders." Bad weather and a shorter shopping season were also factors, it said in a news release. Company officials declined interview requests. Analysts said the company will make changes including higher last-minute prices to smooth out the peak caused by the final rush of shopping just before Christmas. Online shopping is good for UPS, as customers

count on delivery companies to get those packages where they are supposed to go on time. But volumes were so high last month that hundreds of thousands of packages didn't get to their destinations before Christmas — UPS hasn't disclosed the exact number. Amazon.com offered shipping-charge refunds and a \$20 credit for some customers affected by UPS delays.

On Friday, UPS said that it delivered a record 31 million packages on Dec. 23.

That peak, however, came six days later than UPS had planned, and it was 7.5 percent more packages than the company had expected on the busiest day of the season.

Jim Corridore, an analyst with S&P Capital IQ, suggested the company learned a lesson.

"We think UPS did a poor job forecasting the holiday season, but we expect improved readiness this year as online shopping continues to grow," he said in a note to clients. □

## GE rides oil and gas, aircraft to higher 4Q profit

**JONATHAN FAHEY**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — General Electric Co. posted increased revenue and profit for the fourth quarter on rising sales in emerging markets, higher banking profit, and stronger global sales of aircraft engines and oil and gas drilling equipment. The company's shares fell nearly 3 percent in morning trading though, because GE failed to increase its profit margin as much as it had predicted.

The company's profit for all of 2013 rose, though revenue fell slightly, as GE continues its transformation from a sprawling conglomerate to a more focused industrial company that builds and services complex equipment such as CT-scanners, locomotives and gas-fired turbines. GE reported that its net income rose 5 percent to \$4.2 billion, or 41 cents per share, for the October-De-

cember period on revenue of \$40.38 billion. That's up from \$4.01 billion, or 38 cents per share, on revenue of \$39.16 billion in the

expected, on average.

But a manufacturing problem that has affected the quality of some wind turbine blades and poor per-

cent. Christian Mayes, an analyst at Edward Jones, said that failing to hit the profit margin target unsettled investors even though the company hit its earnings and revenue targets. Mayes said GE had implied that the target would be easily hit, and that even if things didn't go perfectly at the end of the year, they'd still be able to reach it. "They've been telling everyone that was an important target for them and they missed it," said Christian Mayes, an analyst at Edward Jones.

GE shares fell 68 cents, or 2.5 percent, to \$26.52 in midday trading Friday.

GE CFO Jeffrey Bornstein said in an interview Friday that the company's biggest goal is to improve industrial profit margins during company's transformation. The target is 17 percent or higher by 2016, up from 15.7 percent in 2013. □



**A General Electric logo is displayed on a kitchen appliances in a H.H. Gregg store in Cranberry Township, Pa. General Electric Co. reported positive quarterly financial results on Friday, Jan. 17, 2014.**  
(AP Photo/Gene J. Puskar)

fourth quarter of 2012.

Adjusted to remove the effects of one-time items and discontinued operations, GE earned 53 cents per share in the latest period. That matches what analysts polled by FactSet

formance by the company's small energy management division prevented the company from meeting its goal of improving profit margin in its industrial divisions by 0.7 percent. Instead, it improved 0.66 per-

## Morgan Stanley books \$1.2 billion legal expense

**STEVE ROTHWELL**  
**AP Business Writer**

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Morgan Stanley says its earnings fell in the fourth quarter as the bank was hit by legal costs related to mortgage-backed securities.

Revenue and adjusted earnings came in better than analysts were expecting, however, sending Morgan Stanley's stock price up 3 percent in early trading Friday. The New York investment bank earned

\$433 million, or 20 cents a share, in the final three months of 2013. That compared to \$982 million, or 49 cents a share, a year earlier. Excluding litigation costs and a tax benefit, the bank earned 50 cents a share, beating the 44 cents forecast by Wall Street analysts. The results also exclude accounting adjustments related to the value of the bank's debt. Morgan Stanley reported legal expenses of \$1.2 bil-

lion related to mortgage-backed securities lawsuits and investigations for the quarter.

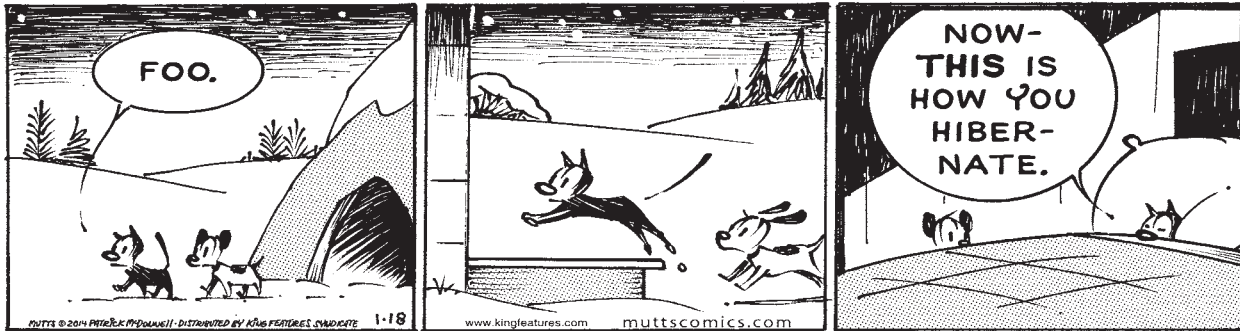
U.S. banks are still dealing with the fallout of the financial crisis more than half a decade after it began. JPMorgan on Tuesday reported results that were impacted by legal expenses and Citigroup said Thursday that it had \$800 million in legal costs in the fourth quarter. Citi said it expected those kinds of expenses

to continue for the banking industry. Morgan Stanley's revenue rose 9 percent to \$8.2 billion from \$7.5 billion in the fourth quarter, beating analysts' forecasts of \$8.02 billion.

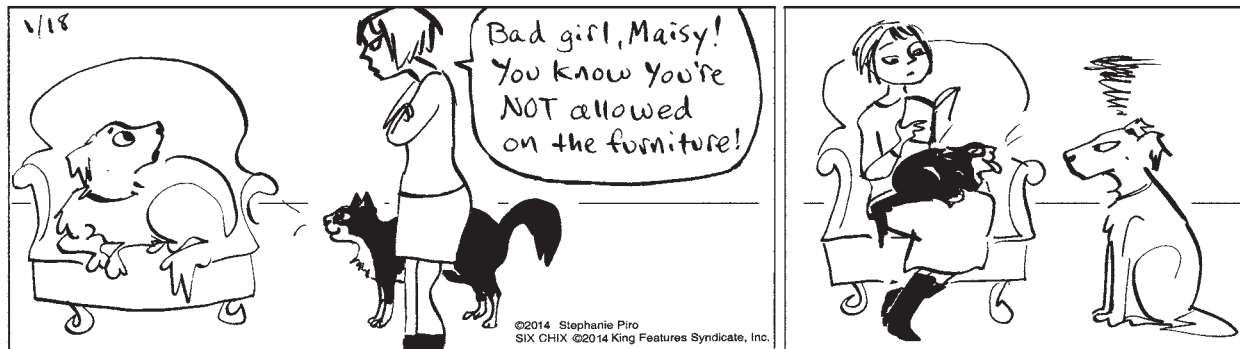
"Our fourth-quarter results demonstrated the consistency embedded in our business model, as revenues increased year-over-year in all three of our business segments," James Gorman, the bank's CEO, said in prepared remarks. □



## Mutts



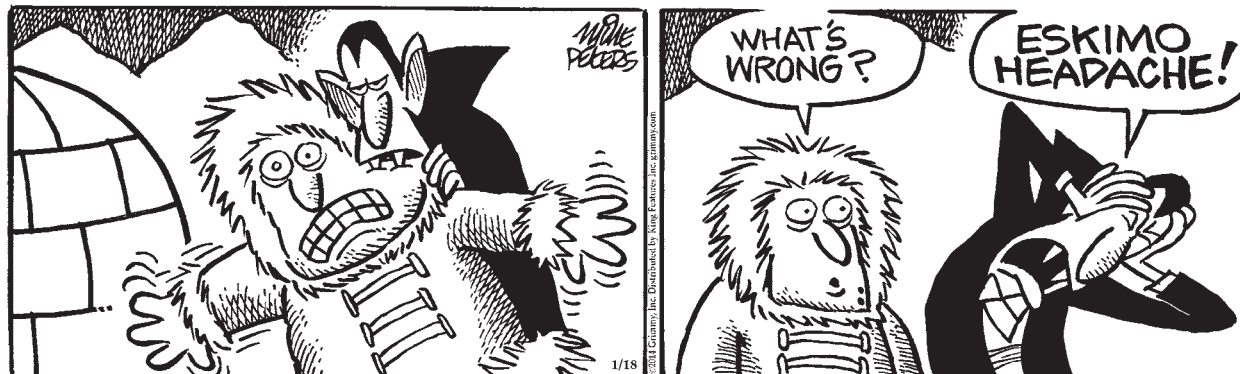
## 6 Chix



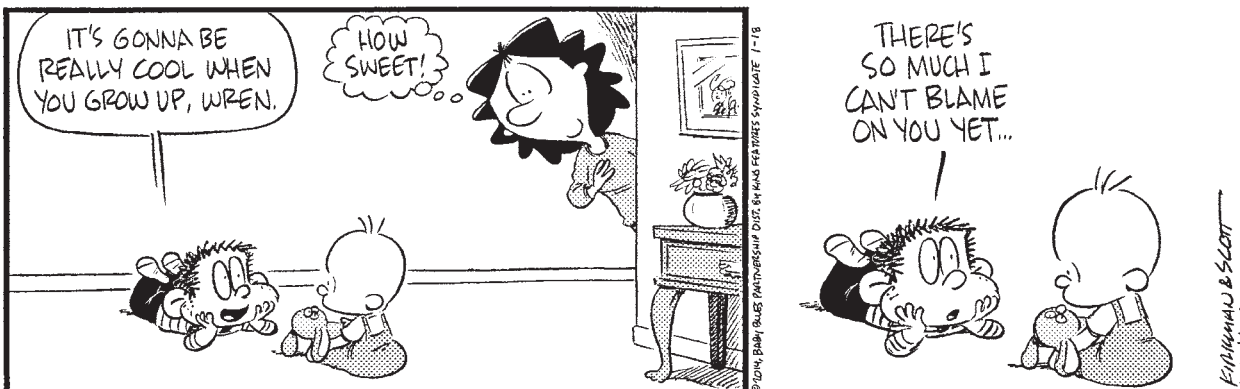
## Blondie



## Mother Goose & Grimm



## Baby Blues



## Zits



## Conceptis Sudoku

	9						5	
8		1		9	7			2
	2					6		
			5				8	
	7			4			3	
	1				2			
		4					7	
7			9	6		4		8
	6						1	

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/18

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

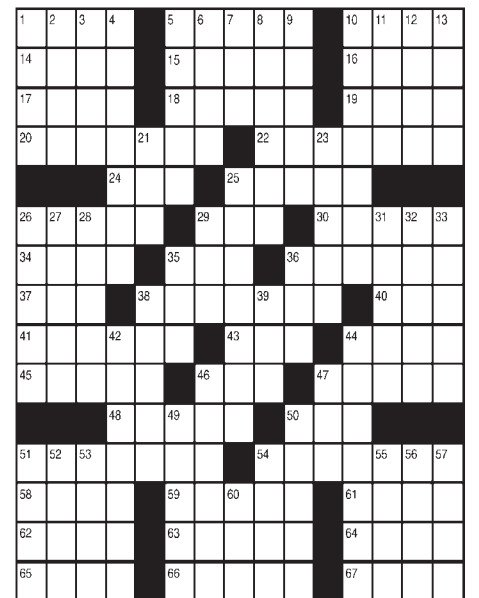
9	8	5	2	1	3	4	6	7
4	3	7	9	6	8	5	2	1
1	6	2	7	4	5	9	8	3
6	9	4	5	2	7	1	3	8
2	5	3	8	9	1	7	4	6
8	7	1	6	3	4	2	5	9
3	1	8	4	5	9	6	7	2
7	4	6	1	8	2	3	9	5
5	2	9	3	7	6	8	1	4

## ACROSS

- away; left
- Has on
- "Old Glory"
- Say proudly
- Capital of Vietnam
- Similar to
- City in Nevada
- Passion
- Fail to include
- Is partial to
- Michael and Diane
- Big clumsy guy
- Digs for ore
- Passed out cards
- Foot digit
- Marathons
- Watermelon casing
- 2,000 pounds
- Geisha's robe
- Didn't up; made no sense
- Afternoon show
- Actor Holbrook
- Mel or José
- Price; label
- Filly trimming
- Cornered
- In heaven; very happy
- Makes coins
- Bravery
- Bathroom feature
- Evolve
- Mark for an offending pupil
- and above; beyond
- Higher berth
- Actor's part
- Is the right size
- Closes tightly
- Up to the task
- Ice on the sea
- Pyle or Els
- Not as much

## DOWN

- Distort
- Hardly; rarely
- Nary a one
- Dual
- Pier
- All; listening
- Most common conjunction
- Trainee
- Ambulance's blaring device
- Shipwreck debris
- Star's car, for short
- Similar
- Acquires
- Dine
- Eagle's nest
- Watch closely
- Uncomfortable breeze
- Sea duck with soft down
- Agassi of tennis
- Tricycle rider
- George M. legislation; make laws
- Shoe bottoms
- Paver's goo
- Beer barrel



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

1/18/14

## Friday's Puzzle Solved

BALE	GRAPE	PLAN
IRON	REBEL	LATE
LEND	OVERSHADOW	
LAG	LOUD	EGYPT
WAIVE	TAU	
PRICEY	RAREST	
RANTS	SCOLD	TAN
ODDS	GLOBE	MAKE
DIE	HEAPS	FILES
ODDITY	FOREST	
EDS	TOTEM	
BLAME	RISE	ASS
REGISTRANT	STOP	
EVES	HINGER	TEAR
WIDE	EDGER	ESPY

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1/18/14

- Military award
- Tired old horse
- "R" on a gearshift
- Kansas city
- Actor Dennis
- Late Diana, to Prince William
- Tiny insect
- Curt
- Tip one's hat
- Wickedness
- Refuse to allow
- Sandwich shop
- Pajamas topper
- Misfortunes
- Palmer's pegs
- "Peter"



## AS SMOOTH AS A MARTINI

STEPHEN HOLDEN  
© 2014 New York Times  
NEW YORK - "I've got more style than a Rolex watch/ I've got more style than a Rolls-Royce car," Devin Bing, a Long Island blue-eyed soul crooner declared in his original ballad "Smooth" in the opening of his show Thursday evening at the Metropolitan Room. Accompanying Bing, who played piano, was his four-member band, the Secret Service (Michael Feinberg on bass, Blaise Lanzetta on drums, Gavi Grodsky on guitar and Mark Bader on percussion), who churned out the kind of sleek, generic pop-soul grooves with jazz flavoring that are associated with hits by the likes of Robin Thicke.

What distinguishes Bing, 28, from other sweet-talking, slick-haired pop loverboys is his mixture of original material with popular standards arranged in a post-Stevie Wonder style. His set led off with "There Will Never Be Another You," "You'd Be So Nice to Come Home To" and "Moody's Mood for Love." Later came a declamatory "All or Nothing at All" that dispensed with the original melody, and "I've Got the World on a String."

Bing has a coming album, whose title, "Shaken Not Stirred," he said, refers to James Bond's favored method of mixing a martini. And two songs, "Little Ms. Mysterious" Parts I and II, he explained, were inspired by Bond-like romantic fantasies of a mysterious beauty, observed smoking a cigarette, who vanishes in the night.

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Week 4, 1 Bdr Pool side  
US\$13,900.00  
Call 737-3006  
buyarubatimeshares.com  
itr@buyarubatimeshares.com

202101

**FOR SALE**  
**La Cabana**  
Wk 2, Studio  
Pool / Ocean View  
US\$4500.00  
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202101

# Classifieds

## FOR RENT

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(Jan 25 - Feb 1)  
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202101

## FOR SALE

**Costa Linda Beach**  
Wk 3, 2Bdr / 2Bth  
Ocean View  
US\$24,500.00  
Call 737-3006  
buyarubatimeshares.com  
itr@buyarubatimeshares.com

202101

## RED/WEEK Resales

**Divi Phoenix**  
1 Br wk 2 Room 605 O.V.  
32 wk remain on the  
contract \$9000

## Marriott Ocean Club

1 Bedroom Platinum  
Ocean View  
Price\$11,500  
info: (297)562-0712  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202105

## FOR SALE

**La Cabana**  
Wk 4, 1 Bdr / 1 Bath  
US\$5,900.00  
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202101

## FOR SALE

**Occidental Resort**  
Week 2,3,4,5 & 6  
3 Bedroom Unit  
Ocean Front  
All inclusive Optional  
US\$50,500.00  
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itr@buyarubatimeshares.com

202101

## FOR SALE

**Divi Phoenix**  
Week 2 2bdr, 2 bth  
ocean front  
US\$22,500.00  
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itr@buyarubatimeshares.com

202101



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**Casa del Mar**  
Rm. 1111, Presidential Suite  
wks. 1&2 - \$15,000 per wk.  
Rm. 1117 Presidential Suit  
wks 3&4-\$15,000 wk.  
contact (Aruba) 560-1288  
until 1/31/14  
(USA) 203-483-5700  
E-mail: costelli@snet.net

201097

## FOR SALE

**1 Br La Cabana**  
wk 7 Rm 427 C  
Thursday start \$4900 and  
wk 7 Tropicana 1 Br Unit 5532  
Friday start \$2950  
E-mail: rmwjmwa@aol.com  
Local: 565-9394  
Phone: 508-651-0016

202103

## FOR SALE

**Caribbean Palm Village (deeded)**  
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(renovated)  
week 1 thru 5  
1 bedroom 2 bath \$10.000  
p/week  
e-mail: np7300@roadrunner.com  
phone: USA 440-428-4631

202104

## FOR SALE

**La Cabana**  
Wk 4, 1 Bdr / 1 Bath  
Pool / Ocean View  
US\$5,500.00  
Call 737-3006  
buyarubatimeshares.com  
itr@buyarubatimeshares.com

202101

## FOR SALE

**Paradise Beach Villas**  
Wk 1, 1 Bedr ocean front  
US\$14,900.00  
Call 737-3006  
www.buyarubatimeshares.com  
itr@buyarubatimeshares.com

202101

## Timeshare FOR SALE

**Casa del Mar**  
weeks 4 and 5  
1508 sunset view  
\$24,000 per week  
e-mail: jbehlke@verizon.net

202108

## RED/WEEK Resales

**Marriott Surf Club**  
2x2Br Platinum ocean view  
\$1K each  
info: (297)562-0712  
johnnypaesch@gmail.com

202109

## FOR SALE

**Condo in Gold Coast**  
Everything's included in this  
2 Br 2 ½ bath unit check it out  
now at [www.arubarental.info](http://www.arubarental.info)  
or call 562-0735 free pick up

202110

## Florida Time Share Wk 3&4

Grand Shores West, St  
Petersburg Ocean Front  
Gulf Blvd  
E-mail: rmwjmwa@aol.com  
Local: 565-9394  
Phone: 508-651-0016

202102

## FOR SALE

**Timeshare For sale**  
**Renaissance Aruba Beach Resort**

week # 2, Unit #2309  
Pool and Ocean Views  
(508) 224-7575 (USA)  
e-mail: odomirok@msn.com

201066

## FOR SALE BY OWNER

**Tropicana Aruba-Renovated Units**

2 Bedroom Condo Unit 2544  
Weeks 1,2,3,4 sun-sun  
2 Bedroom Condo Unit 3544  
Weeks 5,6,7sun-sun  
3 Bedroom Condo Unit 3548  
Week 8 sun-sun

## Mini enhanced rooms

1 bedroom first floor unit 1570  
weeks 7 & 8 fri-fri  
2 bedroom first floor unit 1566  
weeks 5 & 6 fri-fri  
1 bedroom 5th floor unit 5562  
week 17  
Email: cljhn@aol.com  
Tel: 297-566-4608

201079

## TIMESHARE FOR SALE

**Casa del Mar**  
wk 2 ocean front  
Room 1224...25K  
wk 3 ocean, pool view Room  
1318...20K  
e-mail: lemmezell@aol.com

201071

## FOR SALE

**Paradise Beach Villas**  
For Sale week 2 & 4  
Week 2 \$6000 1 bedr  
pool/ocean view  
Week 4 \$8500 1 bdr  
Call Room 207-after January 18  
Call 920-788-2750

201098

## TIMESHARE FOR SALE

**Casa del Mar**  
wk 3 Room 1511  
\$20.000  
e-mail: joansmo25@yahoo.com

201072

## DOCTOR ON DUTY Oranjestad



Jan. 18 Dr. Dennert  
Jan. 19 Dr. van Ool

## EMERGENCIA 911



POLIS	100
POLIS	581-1100
ORANJESTAD	582-4000
NOORD	587-0009
STA. CRUZ	585-4710
SAVANETA	584-7000
SAN NICOLAS	584-5000
FIRE DEPT.	115
FIRE DEPT.	582-1108
POLIS TIPLINE	11141
HOSPITAL	527-4000
AMBULANCE	582-1234
SAN NICOLAS	
AMBULANCE	584-5050

## PHARMACY

O'STAD: Kibrahacha Tel: 582-2007  
S. NICOLAS: San Nicolas Tel: 584-5712

INFORMATION	118
SETAR	582-2116
TAXI	582-5900
TAXI-TAS	587-5900
PROF. TAXI	588-0035
TAXI D.T.S.	587-2300
SERVICE ARUBA	583-3232

## CRUISESHIP

### Jan. 19 Seabourn Pride

Aruba Aiport	524-2424
American Airline	582-2700
Avianca	588-0059
Dutch Antilles	588-1900
Insel Air	588-9314
Jet Blue	588-2244
Spirit Airlines	582-7117
Tiara Air	588-4272
Venezolana	583-7674

## FOUNDATION

### FELLOWSHIP CLINIC

Tel: 584-6440  
Alcoholism & Drug Addiction,  
Anonymity guaranteed

## FUNDACION

### Anti-Droga

### Aruba

(FADA) Tel: 583-2999

## FUNDACION

### Respetami

Tel: 582-4433

### Diabetic Foundation

### Arubano

Tel: 583-3808

### Narcotics Anonymous

Tel: 583-8989

### Foundation Amor

### pa Prohimo

Tel: 583-3345 /586-6976

### Women in Difficulties

### Foundation

Tel: 583-5400

### Bloodbank Aruba

Tel: 587-0002





**Amigo, a white robot the size of a person, uses information gathered by other robots to move towards a table to pick up a carton of milk and deliver it to an imaginary patient in a mock hospital room at the Technical University of Eindhoven, Netherlands, Wednesday Jan. 15, 2014.**

Associated Press

## Data sharing among nations rebooted another decade

**GENEVA (AP)** — Diplomats and officials from 90 nations have agreed to share thousands of observations from satellites, airplanes and ground sensing equipment about our planet for a second decade. An intergovernmental organization known as Group on Earth Observations, or GEO, which was established in February 2005, says it won unanimous approval Friday to share open data from space, airborne and ground observations for another 10 years.

The European environment commissioner, Janez Potocnik, said the data will help inform decision-making about agriculture, biodiversity, climate, disasters, ecosystems, energy, health, water and weather. China's science and technology vice minister, Cao Jianlin, says his country is partnering with 46 others in GEO to measure natural and human effects on the carbon cycle, the first such coordinated effort at the global level. □

## Europe launches RoboEarth: 'Wikipedia for Robots'

**TOBY STERLING  
Associated Press  
EINDHOVEN, Netherlands (AP)** — Let the robot race begin.

Expectations are high for RoboEarth, a new European-funded system to speed the development of human-serving robots. Scientists from five major European technical universities have gathered in the Netherlands this week for its launch and to demonstrate possible applications.

The first: the deceptively simple task of delivering a glass of milk to a patient in a mock-up hospital room. The system is sometimes billed as a kind of Wikipedia for robots, allowing them — or their programmers — to turn to it for information. In a demonstration Wednesday at Eindhoven Technical University, RoboEarth wirelessly instructed a scrappy waste bin-sized robot called "Avi" to scan a room's physical layout, including the location of the patient's bed and the placement of a carton of milk on a table nearby.

Then the system activated a second robot, the more humanoid "Amigo," which used the map provided by Avi to locate the milk, grasp it with a pincer hand and bring it to the side of the hospital bed. That mission accomplished, he dropped it on the floor. Fortunately, it was a test run and no milk was spilled. Amigo hasn't been programmed for crying anyway.

The hospital exercise is just the beginning. Organizers say the tasks the robots are carrying out are of a technological sophistication comparable to those performed by high-end robots in automobile factories — they just look clumsier because robots that interact with humans are not performing repetitive tasks in the controlled, sanitized and predictable surroundings of a factory.

The RoboEarth project was



**A robotic arm, left, puts a package of Pringles on the serving tray of another robot to deliver it to an imaginary patient in a mock hospital room at the Technical University of Eindhoven, Netherlands, Wednesday Jan. 15, 2014.**

Associated Press

years in the making and received around 4 million euros (\$5.4 million) in funding from the European Union for interrelated projects at technology conglomerate Royal Philips NV and universities in the Netherlands, Germany, Spain and Switzerland.

Designers of robots can add information to the system, which is then shared for free so that others don't have to reinvent the electric wheel.

For example, if a robot maker wants to program a hand to grasp something, that's difficult to design. But the coding for three different ways to do it may be there for a robot to plug into on RoboEarth.

But RoboEarth is more than an encyclopedia. It has a system of networked computers that allow it to perform intensive computing tasks that smaller computers — or in this case simpler robots — may not be able to.

It also allows individual robots to communicate between themselves, the so-called RoboCloud of networked computers, and the robot database.

"The future in robotics and especially cloud computing is very exciting," said Gajan Mohanarajah, of

the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology at Zurich, which is taking part in the project.

Mohanarajah was one of the core developers of the RoboCloud, sometimes called an "online brain for robots," which was launched in March ahead of the rest of the project.

"This means we can build very lightweight and cheap robots and completely offload most of the computing to the cloud," Mohanarajah said.

He showed off a small mapping robot he has worked up with components costing only \$500. It can roll along as far as its batteries will take it, registering its environment and uploading the data to the cloud. It could be considered a miniature, stripped-down version of one of Google's Street View cars. Sascha Griffiths of The Technical University of Munich describes the technology his team has developed: digitizing human speech, then sending it to the RoboCloud for interpretation. What they've built couldn't compete with Apple's Siri, but it doesn't have to: the current demonstration is limited to understanding requests a person in a hospital bed might make. □



# Helen Mirren earns Harvard's Hasty Pudding award

**CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP)** — Academy Award-winning actress Helen Mirren said that given her love of pudding of all kinds, she's thrilled to be named woman of the year by Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals. "How very saucy of the Hasty Pudding organisation to offer me their award," Mirren said in a statement issued with Friday's announcement of her award. "As someone who adores pudding in all its manifestations ... suet, Christmas, treacle, bread and butter, Yorkshire, plum, figgy, etc., etc., I am so looking forward to the famous Hasty Pudding." Hasty Pudding Theatricals is the nation's oldest undergraduate drama troupe, dating to the late 18th century. Its awards are presented annually to performers who have made a lasting and impressive contribu-

tion to entertainment. Mirren, 68, won the 2007 best-actress Oscar for her role as Queen Elizabeth II in "The Queen." She has been nominated on three other occasions. She has also appeared in "The Long Good Friday," "Gosford Park" and "The Madness of King George." She was also named Dame of the British Empire in 2003. She is being honored for the international recognition she has earned for her work on stage, screen and television, the troupe said. Mirren will be honored with a parade and roast and given her ceremonial pudding pot at Harvard on Jan. 30. The man of the year will be named later. Last year's Hasty Pudding award winners were Marion Cotillard and Kiefer Sutherland. Previous winners have included some of the biggest names in en-



In this Oct. 17, 2013 file photo, British actress Helen Mirren attends the 50th Anniversary of Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Hong Kong. Mirren was named Friday, Jan. 17, 2014, as Harvard University's Hasty Pudding Theatricals 2014 Woman of the Year.

Associated Press

tertainment, including Meryl Streep, Katharine Hepburn, and Elizabeth Taylor, Sean Connery and Robert DeNiro. □

## Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

**Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "from the pier to your plate!"**



**ORANJESTAD** - The downtown marina is home of Driftwood Fishing Charters, the successful fisherman of the established seafood restaurant Driftwood in Oranjestad. Driftwood owner Herby

Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words "fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on 12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm.



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

### Catch your own dinner

A charter includes: captain, mate all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included.

You can call Herby directly at (297) 592 4040 or go to [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com)

**Driftwood Restaurant.** This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their

extended menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 4-course menu for just \$25.95 **Charter deep sea fishing rates:** \$400 - 1/2 day • \$760 - full day. Rates per boat Max. 6 people. **Driftwood Restaurant** Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant; Klipstraat #12, Downtown Oranjestad. Tel: (297) 583 2515 [www.driftwoodaruba.com](http://www.driftwoodaruba.com) Open hours: every day, from 5pm till 10:30pm. Sunday Closed.



# SAG to honor Moreno's life of screen achievements

MIKE CIDONI LENNOX

AP Entertainment Writer

**LOS ANGELES (AP)** — She's won Oscar, Emmy, Grammy and Tony awards, but Rita Moreno had to pull the car over when the call came that she would receive the SAG Life Achievement Award. "It was stunning news," Moreno said, "the last thing in the world I would have ever expected." Moreno will receive the award at the 20th annual Screen Actors Guild Awards, to be presented Saturday at the Shrine Exposition Center and airing

live on TNT and TBS (8 p.m. EST). The 82-year-old actress has a movie career that dates back to 1950. Early on in Hollywood, she landed an MGM contract, but didn't register her first career triumph until the film adaptation of the stage musical "The King & I." "'The King & I' was where I met (director-choreographer) Jerome Robbins, because he came to do all of the staging of the musical numbers and he kind of fell in love with doing movies," Moreno said. "And when 'West Side Story' came

along a number of years later, I was the first person he thought of for the part of Anita."

Moreno, who was born in Puerto Rico, won a supporting actress Oscar for her performance as a Hispanic gang leader's girlfriend in the 1961 film. She didn't make another movie for nearly seven years.

"It was heartbreaking," she said. "I had played the definitive Hispanic, and that was that."

She kept working, doing TV and theater, and eventually made her way out of



In this Oct. 4, 2013 file photo, actress Rita Moreno arrives at Variety's 5th Annual Power of Women event at the Beverly Wilshire Hotel, in Beverly Hills, Calif. Associated Press

# In DC's 'Justice League,' an unlikely leader

MATT MOORE

Associated Press

**PHILADELPHIA (AP)** — Lex Luthor is sporting a new title on his business card: Hero. And, the way things are going in the wake of the Crime Syndicate's mayhem on earth, the erstwhile corporate titan and super hero-way skeptic may find himself leading the Justice League, too. That would be much to the chagrin of some of its members, notably Superman whose visage is not among those featured on the cover of "Justice League" No. 30 due out April 23 and illustrated by Ivan Reis and Joe Prado.



This comic image released by DC Entertainment shows the cover art for "Justice League."

Associated Press

"Is he going to lead the Justice League? It depends on whom you ask on the team. Certainly, he thinks he should," said series writer Geoff Johns, who said the Justice League will have to rebuild its reputation and its dynamic among members Batman, Wonder Woman, Aquaman, Captain Marvel, Cyborg and former Flash rogue Captain Cold.

Hero and leader are new sobriquets for Luthor, a man better known for his wariness about costumed crime-fighters and super-powered champions.

Johns, who is DC Entertainment's chief creative officer, said this week that development will make

for intriguing and unsettling events as the super group finds its place anew in a world wracked by the alternate-dimension Crime Syndicate from Earth-3 and the mayhem they wrought in the vast "Forever Evil" event that started in September and is heading toward its final conclusion this spring.

"The Justice League is going to go through a lot of changes, obviously, in the wake of 'Forever Evil,'" he explained this week. "A lot of the blame can be put on their shoulders for what has happened: They were infiltrated and they fought each other and that led to the unleashing of the Crime Syndicate and the evil that took over the world."

But amid the takeover, and the field day for the villains that went with it, Luthor seized the opportunity to become leader of the so-called Injustice League and a rallying point to reclaim the world from the Crime Syndicate's Ultraman, Owlman, Superwoman, Johnny Quick and Atomica, Deathstorm and Power Ring.

Johns said readers will see "the post-'Forever Evil' world with the lines being a little bit blurry between good and bad and seeing what kind of heroes it will take to not just protect the world, but defend the world."

While it's not going to be a Luthor Legion, the team's dynamic is going to be tested with his presence and, Johns said, so, too, will he find himself facing different pressures commensurate with his new position.

"With fame and spotlight comes scrutiny and detractors," said Johns, adding Luthor is breaking new and unfamiliar ground.

"I think the most interesting thing is that Lex doesn't realize what it's like to be a super hero, what the life is like. You make enemies, they attack you on a personal level. And he's just Lex Luthor. He has no codename, no mask," he said. "He has to deal with the ramifications of that." □

the Hollywood rut by providing the inspiration for one of her most memorable characters: a lousy, loopy lounge singer. "All dancers do bits," Moreno explained. "And one day I said, 'OK, here's this Puerto Rican girl who cannot sing or dance, auditioning for a bus-and-truck (company) of 'Gypsy.'"

She then broke out in a broad, off-key rendition of "Everything's Coming up Roses." Playwright Terrence McNally caught Moreno's performance and created the character of Googie

Gomez, a gay bathhouse performer. Googie provided the big laughs in the stage farce "The Ritz," and Moreno won a 1975 Tony for the role. She then received BAFTA and Golden Globe nominations for her work in the film adaptation. She was back, on her own terms, and has worked steadily ever since.

"I'm one of the last few people around who do everything," Moreno said. "We sing, we dance, we act. We do comedy. We do drama. So, that's where I come from." □

# Radcliffe eyes Broadway in 'Cripple of Inishmaan'

MARK KENNEDY

AP Drama Writer

**NEW YORK (AP)** — Daniel Radcliffe is returning to Broadway as a disabled Irish dreamer. Producers said Thursday the "Harry Potter" actor will star in Martin McDonagh's "The Cripple of Inishmaan," directed by Tony Award-winner Michael Grandage. Previews begin April 12 at the Cort Theatre with an opening scheduled for April 20. The show tells the story of a young man who tries to become a movie star when a Hollywood film is being made nearby. Radcliffe made his West End debut in 2007 and Broadway debut in 2008 in "Equus." He returned to Broadway in 2011 for "How to Succeed



in Business Without Really Trying." "The Cripple of Inishmaan" was mounted in London last year with Radcliffe and previously had off-Broadway productions at the Public Theater and at the Atlantic Theater Company. □



## The Leadership Revival



DAVID BROOKS  
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If you are in politics or public life, you probably had some moment of spine-tingling transcendence. Maybe you read the Declaration of Independence or watched the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s mountaintop sermon, or read Nelson Mandela's 1964 speech from the dock.

Suddenly, your imagination was inflamed beyond its normal scope. You were enveloped by this epic sense that public life could be truly heroic. The people who issue these statements brought their lives to a glorious point, pledging their sacred honor, offering to sacrifice their lives for some public mission.

You got into public life inspired by something like that. But how do you execute that sort of vision? How do you translate the poetry of high aspiration into the prose of effective governance? This is the common problem today. Most people go into public life for the right reasons, but government doesn't work. The quality of the people is high, but the quality of leadership is low.

I'd suggest three responses. First, apprentice yourself to a master craftsman. Find yourself a modern version of Ted Kennedy cobbling together a Senate majority. Find yourself some silent backstage official, who knows how to slide ideas through the bureaucracy. Glue yourself to that person in order to learn the craft of governance.

Schools are good at transmitting what the philosopher Michael Oakeshott called technical knowledge. This is the sort of knowledge that can be expressed in rules and put down in books - like the recipes in a cookbook. But craftsmen possess and transmit practical knowledge. This sort of knowledge, Oakeshott says, exists only in use. It cannot be taught, only imparted by imitation and experience. It's knowing when to depart from the cookbook; how much, when running a meeting, to let the conversation flow and how much to rein it in.

Practical knowledge is hard to see, but it is embedded in traditions of behavior. It is embedded in the lives of older legislators and public servants, and it is passed down by imitation to

the younger ones. This craft of governing well has been forsaken and disrespected, but you will not be effective in public life unless you find a wise old person who will teach you the tricks of the trade, hour after hour, side by side.

Second, take a reality bath. Go off and become a stranger in a strange land. Go off to some alien part of this country or the world. Immerse yourself in the habits and daily patterns of that existence and stay there long enough to get acculturated. Stay there long enough so that you forget the herd mentality of our partisan culture.

When you return home, you will look at your own place with foreign eyes. You'll see the contours of your own reality more clearly. When you return to native ground, you're more likely to possess the sort of perceptiveness that Isaiah Berlin says is the basis of political judgment. This sort of wisdom consists of "a special sensitiveness to the contours of the circumstances in which we happen to be placed; it is a capacity for living without falling foul of some permanent condition or factor which cannot be either altered, or even fully described." This wisdom is based on a tactile awareness of your country and its people - what they want, how they react. You don't think this awareness. You feel it. You experience a visceral oneness with culture and circumstance - the smell of the street, tinges of anger and hope and aspiration. The irony is that you are more likely to come into union with your own home culture after you have been away from it. You have to walk away from the partisan tunnel vision to see how things really are.

Finally, close off your options. People in public life live in a beckoning world. They have an array of opportunities. They naturally want to keep all their options open. The shrewd strategists tell them to make a series of tepid commitments to see what pans out. Hedge your bets. Play it smart.

But the shrewd strategy leads to impotence. You spread yourself thin. You dissipate your energies and never put full force behind any cause. You make your own trivial career the object of your attention, not the vision that inspired you in the first place.

The public official who does this leaves no mark. Only the masters of renunciation leave an imprint, only those who can say a hundred Nos for the sake of an overwhelming Yes. Only the person who has burned the ships and committed to one issue has the courage to cast aside the advice of the strategists and actually push through change.

We live in a nation of good people and ineffective government. I don't know if these tactics will improve the quality of the nation's leadership, but something has to. □



## According Animals Dignity



FRANK BRUNI  
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As of late Monday afternoon, when I was finishing this column, the most frequently emailed story on The Times' website for the previous week wasn't about the polar vortex, Chris Christie or "Downton Abbey."

It was about cats.

I suppose that's no big shock. On blogs, on Facebook and all around the Internet, claws and clicks go hand in hand (or is that paw in paw?). While the meek may be inheriting the earth, the furry have already claimed cyberspace.

But what is surprising - and indicative of a new chapter in the interactions of Americans and the animals around us - is the focus of the cat story in question. It wasn't about kittens doing the darnedest things. Under the headline "What Your Cat Is Thinking," it examined the new book "Cat Sense," by a British biologist, John Bradshaw, who flags his seriousness of purpose with his subtitle, "How the New Feline Science Can Make You a Better Friend to Your Pet." Bradshaw means to get into the cat brain.

He's already plumbed its canine counterpart, in the 2011 book "Dog Sense," which was also grounded in research, not sentiment, and in the idea that pets have inner lives more complicated than we imagine. "Dog Sense" was published just

two years after the huge best-seller "Inside of a Dog," by psychology professor Alexandra Horowitz, which pivoted on the same notion.

It was "Inside of a Dog" in particular that caught my friend Kerry Lauerman's attention, cluing him in to a quickly shifting human perspective on animals. "There's this growing obsession with animal cognition," he said. Referring specifically to pets, he added: "We don't want animals just for comfort. We really want to know them." He mentioned another widely emailed story in The Times, from October, by a neuroeconomics professor who was doing MRI scans of dogs' brains and finding suggestions of emotions like ours. Its telling headline: "Dogs Are People, Too."

Lauerman wasn't merely musing. He was explaining the rationale for a new website, The Dodo, that's dedicated to animal news and features and made its debut this week. He's its chief executive officer and editor in chief, and came to it from the influential online publication Salon, where he was the editor in chief from late 2010 to mid-2013.

One of The Dodo's principal financial backers is Ken Lerer, the current chairman of BuzzFeed and one of the founders of the Huffington Post. His daughter, Izzie Lerer, created and developed the site with Lauerman. Additionally, she's finishing up her doctorate in philosophy at Columbia University, where her research focuses on the evolving compact between people and animals.

The Dodo's pedigree speaks to a broadening, deepening concern about animals that's no longer sufficiently captured by the phrase "animal welfare." An era of what might be called animal dignity is upon us. You see signs everywhere.

A story in The Wall Street Journal on Sunday reported a sharp rise over the last few years in the fraction of American dog and cat owners with provisions in

their wills for their pets. Nearly 1 in 10 have made such arrangements.

One of the most fervently embraced documentaries of 2013 was "Blackfish," shown over and over on CNN. It doesn't just depict mistreatment of killer whales at SeaWorld; it makes the case that these glorious mammals have rich social and family connections and a profound capacity for grief.

There's been extensive discussion lately of elephants' emotional lives, and Hillary Clinton, with her famously active political antenna, recently found time to narrate a documentary, "White Gold," about the bloody wages of the ivory trade, and to speak at its premiere.

People who go on lion hunts encounter stern public shaming. (The Dodo recounts a recent example.) Bill de Blasio has prioritized the retirement of Central Park's carriage horses. Several prominent retailers, including Gap and H&M, stopped procuring angora last year after a widely shared video of the fur being yanked from rabbits' bodies. The movement to accord chimpanzees and some other kinds of apes legal rights is accelerating, and greater scrutiny of food production has prompted keener disgust over the fate of many farm animals, along with state legislation to spare them florid suffering.

This is only going to build, because at the same time that scientific advances force us to gaze upon the animal kingdom with more respect, the proliferation of big and little cameras - of eyes everywhere - permits us to eavesdrop not just on animal play but also on animal persecution. It's all documented, it all goes viral, and we can't turn away, or claim ignorance, as easily as we once did.

"Those creatures big and small that have fed, frightened, entertained, comforted and awed us are no longer just them," Lauerman writes in a letter to The Dodo's readers. "Increasingly, they are us." □



# Pre-Super Bowl Star Power Abounds In Semifinals

**DAVE CAMPBELL**  
**AP Pro Football Writer**

Division rivals. Coaching rivals. Quarterback rivals. Unpredictable weather. And plenty of drama in store. Indeed — with Broncos-Patriots and Seahawks-49ers — the NFL has perhaps exactly what it wants in the conference championships on Sunday.

Inside all of that is a guarantee that the Super Bowl matchup will be, well, super.

In the American Football Conference, the Peyton Manning-Tom Brady rematch in the Denver-New England game is an epic qualifier for the Super Bowl. The National Football Conference, though, features fierce division rivals, two of the best young quarterbacks around, and a prickly relationship between head coaches with the Seattle-San Francisco game. The Seahawks are so good at home and CenturyLink Field is so loud that the stadium is a story in itself.

Then there's the fact that both contests will be played outside, raising the possibility of unpredictable weather to help prepare the winners for, well, unpredictable weather.

The decision to subject the Super Bowl in New York to

potential cold, wind and snow for the first time in history put the league in position for criticism if the title game were to be influenced by, say, a fumbled wet ball or a gust-guided missed field goal.

With two of these remaining teams on stage, however, the weather will be hard-pressed to make the headlines. The NFL, this carefully cultivated cultural magnet and money-making machine, has managed to top itself yet again with these conference championship matchups.

Sure, Brady and Manning have squared off for a spot in the Super Bowl twice before. v Three straight Dallas-San Francisco games in the 1990s were memorable. But recalling a better set of matchups than this? Good luck. These four teams combined for a 50-14 record in the regular season.

"If you're a football fan, it can't get any better than this week," Seahawks quarterback Russell Wilson said. "You think about the NFC championship game, us versus the 49ers, and you think about the AFC side and the Patriots versus the Broncos, that's as good as it gets."

Brady already beat Manning this season when the



**New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady reacts as he listens to a reporter ask him why he thinks polls show him as one of the most hated quarterbacks in the league during a media availability at the NFL football team's facility in Foxborough, Mass., Thursday, Jan. 16, 2014. The Patriots are scheduled to play the Denver Broncos in the AFC championship game on Sunday in Denver for the AFC Championship.**

(AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

Patriots overcame a 24-0 halftime deficit to defeat the Broncos 34-31 in overtime. This will be the 15th time they'll play against each other, and Brady has already won 10.

If the Patriots, forced by injuries to favor a running

game, win, they'll tie Dallas and Pittsburgh for the most Super Bowl appearances with eight. Brady, who has already won three but none since the 2004 season, would also set a record with his sixth trip as a starting quarterback.

Manning has made two Super Bowls, winning one. Despite leading the Broncos to the most points in NFL regular-season history in his second season back from the neck injury that ended his tenure in Indianapolis, the chatter that he hasn't won enough in the playoffs has persisted. Brady is immune with a record 18 postseason victories in 25 starts.

Don't forget about the coaches in this drama, either. Bill Belichick would match Tom Landry's all-time mark with 20 postseason wins and Don Shula's record of six Super Bowl appearances if the Patriots triumph. Then there's Belichick's offensive coordinator Josh McDaniels, no stranger to Denver. He had two tumultuous years as head coach of the Broncos and is not remembered fondly

by the orange-and-blue clad fans.

The coaches are more central to the narrative on the other side.

Pete Carroll famously and angrily asked Jim Harbaugh, "What's your deal?" in 2009 after Stanford ran up the score in a college win over Southern California, which Carroll left for the Seahawks the following season. Harbaugh departed the college ranks the year after to take over the 49ers, and their teams have been fighting over the NFC West since.

Leading run-first, defense-fueled teams, millennials Wilson and Colin Kaepernick are from a different mould than Brady and Manning of Generation X. But they're more than capable of taking the baton. The Seahawks-49ers all-time series is tied at 15 wins each. This will be their first meeting in the playoffs, but likely not the last.

"I think it's the best rivalry in football right now," TV analyst and Cowboys great Troy Aikman said.

With a pretty good one in the AFC game, too. □



**Denver Broncos quarterback Peyton Manning (18) speaks during a news conference at the NFL Denver Broncos football training facility in Englewood, Colo., on Wednesday, Jan. 15, 2014. The Broncos are scheduled to play the New England Patriots on Sunday for the AFC Championship.**

(AP Photo/Ed Andrieski)